

هذا هو الأصل

King honours Daoudieh, names successor

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Decree has been issued bestowing on Mr. Daoudieh the Independence Medal of the First Order. The Royal Decree was also issued appointing Ali Al Fazza, as director of the information office and public relations at the Royal Court. Mr. Daoudieh, Mr. Daoudieh Sunday tendered his resignation to His Majesty King Hussein in order to run for parliament elections, in his home town of Tafila. In his letter of resignation, Mr. Daoudieh expressed his gratitude for the "compassion and care" that His Majesty had shown him, and said his time at the Royal Court was long enough to discover only some of many virtues that the King has. "It was a great honour to have worked for Your Majesty for 13 months, after which I now realise the secret of your people's love for you," Mr. Daoudieh wrote.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة باللغة العربية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الوابي

Aziz calls on U.N. to lift sanctions

GENEVA (R) — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz Wednesday called on the U.N. Security Council to lift its sweeping economic sanctions against Iraq. Mr. Aziz, who held 75-minute talks with U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, told reporters they had discussed U.N. Security Council resolutions which would allow a partial lifting of an oil embargo against Iraq, but he disclosed no details. Mr. Aziz, asked about a partial lifting of oil sales as foreseen under Security Council resolutions 607 and 612, replied: "It is not in my hands. It is in the hands of the Security Council. The Security Council has not yet taken essential or positive steps towards easing or lifting sanctions." Mr. Aziz said his meeting with Dr. Ghali had been "frank and constructive" and they had agreed to continue their talks in the future to improve relations between Iraq and the United Nations. "Iraq has fulfilled most of the essential points of its obligations according to U.N. Security Council resolutions, mainly resolution 687," he added.

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Israel, PLO negotiate mutual recognition

Secret Syrian and Lebanese talks with Israel reported

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — Israel and the Arab League dramatic strides towards Middle East peace on Wednesday as Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) negotiated on a mutual recognition designed to end decades of warlike enmity. Secret Israeli-Syrian talks were also reported.

Official U.S.-sponsored Middle East talks in Washington resumed for a second day but the real action was elsewhere.

A Palestinian source said the PLO and Israel were negotiating the recognition deal by telephone in the hope they could sign a historic peace agreement in Washington by the end of next week. There was no scheduled date for the completion of the current round of peace talks.

Talks in Norway on Tuesday failed to finalise a deal and an informed Norwegian source said the negotiations had encountered problems.

The Palestinian source said: "Documents are being exchanged back and forth but the document is not yet ready."

Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi said in a CBS interview: "I think there's a real likelihood of having a genuine breakthrough on that front, probably today."



Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin (right) receives flowers from a boy at a Palestinian school in East Jerusalem as he arrives for a visit Wednesday (AFP photo)

But the Palestinian source said later it was hard to predict when the recognition deal might be agreed. It had seemed only hours away earlier in the week.

He said the "declaration of principles" on Israeli-Palestinian peace, covering a five-year in-

terim period of Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, would not be presented to the PLO Executive Committee for final approval until recognition was agreed.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said on Tuesday that

PLO leader Yasser Arafat had already "basic changes in the character...of the PLO and Israel will respond accordingly."

"Until now, the PLO was an organisation that had selected as a strategy, terror. If it will become a political battle that does

not turn to violence or terror, we won't have any problem to sit with them," Mr. Peres said in a television interview.

The PLO-Israeli declaration of principles was negotiated in 14 rounds secret talks over four months in Norway.

Mr. Peres told a Jerusalem press conference that Israel could sign a "declaration of principles" immediately.

"The declaration of principles was approved by the two sides. It stands on its own. In my judgement it is ready for signature," Mr. Peres said.

Mr. Peres said the signing of that agreement and mutual recognition were not linked. The second would be signed in Washington, he said.

Asked what was delaying the signing Mr. Peres said: "We think that the first week of meetings in Washington should really be spent on exchanging general views...and the real story, I hope, will begin next week."

PLO officials made similar statements in Tunis.

"There will be a mutual recognition within days before the agreement is signed," PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo told Reuters.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Haidar Abdul Shafi, a Gazan

(Continued on page 5)

Jordan will not accept any imposed agreement — King

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan respects the Palestinians' right to take independent decisions in their affairs, but will not accept any agreement to which the Kingdom is not a party, His Majesty King Hussein said Wednesday.

The King said Jordan was not informed of the details of the reported agreement between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel on Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories focusing mainly on the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

"We reject any agreement to which we are not a party and any imposition of such agreements on us," said the King. The King's comments came in a television interview with renowned Arab journalist Ghassan Tweini. Parts of the interview were broadcast on Jordan Television.

It was the second time that the King publicly referred to the lack of PLO consultations with Jordan over the so-called "Gaza-Jericho first" agreement worked out in secret between the PLO and Israel outside the framework of the 22-



month-old Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

It also indicated that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who flew here on a surprise visit last week after the King made the first comments in a news agency interview, could not offer satisfactory explanations over the lack of consultations with Jordan.

"We in Jordan have a united decision and our stand is united," the King said. "The Palestinians have the right to discuss their own affairs, aspirations, and rights and we always support the independent Palestinian decision," he said.

The King pointed out that

Jordan "has always been calling for enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their rights and take their own decision without any influence of interference from any party."

"Based on this principle and understanding, Jordan responded to a pan-Arab call at the Rabat (Arab) summit (held in 1974) by recognising that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," the King said.

Answering other questions during the interview, the King said the Arab Nation was passing through "a dangerous stage where its destiny is threatened."

"This situation calls for a summit meeting where all Arab states rise above the wounds and misunderstanding for the sake of the Arab Nation's future generations," the King said.

"We are fully committed to any Arab plan for convening an Arab summit meeting since we believe that inter-Arab coordination is not up to the required level vis-a-vis the peace process," he said.

Arafat seeks Fateh support for his deal

Combined agency dispatches

TUNIS — Yasser Arafat on Wednesday was trying to win approval from his mainstream Fateh faction for an agreement he reached with Israel on partial self-rule in the occupied territories.

The veteran leader, who faces death threats from hardline factions within the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), badly needs his own faction's backing to continue with the peace process.

Mr. Arafat called a meeting of the 18-man Fateh Central Committee, which was expected to be turbulent as several members of the body are vocal opponents of the peace deal.

Under the agreement, the Palestinians would gain a measure of self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho. But opponents have blasted the plan for being too limited and failing to deal with the key issue of the status of Jerusalem.

Mr. Arafat arrived from Sudan, where he put Israel on notice that he was not giving up Arab claims on Jerusalem, clearly trying to reassure his critics in advance of the committee meeting.

"Whoever would relinquish an inch of Jerusalem is not an Arab or a Muslim," he told reporters in

Khartoum on Tuesday night. He said Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel considers Jerusalem beyond negotiation. But, Mr. Arafat said, "he has to remember that Jerusalem is a red line not only for the Palestinians but to the Muslims, the Christians and the Arabs."

Mr. Arafat called the emergency central committee meeting after mounting opposition developed to his plans to go ahead with the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

Mr. Arafat badly needs the endorsement of his own group before proposing the accord for approval by the PLO Executive Committee and the Palestine National Council.

Fateh is the largest and most influential group within the PLO. The second- and third-largest group, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), oppose the Gaza-Jericho deal.

And two members of the Fateh Central Committee, Hani Al Hassan and Abbas Zaki, have openly rejected the plan. They called on Mr. Arafat not to sign it.

PLO officials said Mr. Hassan and Mr. Zaki were on their way from Amman, accompanied by several other members of the committee who are based in Jordan.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they expected further opposition to surface inside the committee. Sakhr, Abu Nizar, a Central Committee member, told the Associated Press that a long debate was expected.

A senior PLO official said the draft agreement with Israel will allow all Palestinians who fled the West Bank and the Gaza Strip during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war to return home.

"There is an accord on the return of all of them. They are more than 800,000. A committee composed of Israel, the PLO, Egypt and Jordan will set the practical and administrative procedures for their return," PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed-Rabbo told Reuters.

The PFLP, headed by George Habbash said Wednesday the PLO's leadership should be dismissed.

The group called for a conference in the occupied territories and abroad to choose a new PLO leadership.

"We urge all forces and nationalist activists who are faithful to the blood of the martyrs... to meet and convene a national and popular conference in the occupied territories and in the diaspora... to elect an interim

leadership able to safeguard the national programme," it said in a statement sent to Reuters.

It did not mention Mr. Arafat by name.

Senior Palestinian negotiator Faisal Al Hussein on Wednesday briefed opposition leaders in the occupied territories on the agreement.

Riyad Al Malki, an academic activist associated with the PFLP, said he was convinced the accord was a sell-out.

"Our concern is that this agreement has already been initiated, will be signed in Washington within the next two days and will be implemented as soon as possible. The fear is that a status quo will be imposed in the occupied territories that cannot be reversed," Mr. Malki said.

Mr. Arafat told a demonstration in support of the Gaza-Jericho accord that the Palestinians were on the way to having a state with Jerusalem as its capital.

More than 3,000 cheering Palestinians in the West Bank town of Nablus heard the stirring address from Mr. Arafat via a telephone broadcast link following the PLO agreement with Israel.

"What we have already achieved is what was possible and not what we wanted to do to found a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital," he said.

(Continued on page 5)

U.N. welcomes accord, pledges to assist it

Combined agency dispatches

GENEVA — U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali Wednesday welcomed a planned Israeli-Palestinian accord and said the United Nations was ready to help implement it.

The secretary-general has studied the text of a plan for an Israeli-Palestinian agreement published yesterday. He congratulates the government of the State of Israel and the Palestinian delegation," his spokeswoman said in a statement.

Dr. Ghali was quoted as saying he hoped the deal, which envisages an international presence to help implement it, could be signed soon.

"Once the agreement is signed and if the two sides request it, the United Nations will be ready to offer all its help in the areas foreseen by the accord in order to contribute to bringing peace to the Middle East in line with U.N. resolutions," Dr. Ghali said.

Israeli and the Palestine Liberation Organisation are on the verge of recognising each other although officials differed on Wednesday about the timing of the historic breakthrough.

Both sides have approved a declaration of principles which covers interim self-rule for the two million Palestinians under

Israeli occupation, beginning with an Israeli troop withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

In an interview published Wednesday in the Italian daily Repubblica, Dr. Ghali said that during a recent meeting he had advised PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat "not to miss the opportunity" presented by an accord with Israel and to seize the initiative.

"Time will tell whether it's an historic accord or not. But I believe it is a very important step. We hope it will be the basis for building something even more important," the U.N. chief told the daily.

Dr. Ghali said the threat of Islamic militants sabotaging the peace process was being exaggerated. "Sure, these radicals are very dangerous. But they still represent a marginal movement."

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev welcomed the breakthrough in peace talks and said the Israel-PLO agreement must be grasped quickly.

(Continued on page 5)

Jordan hopes to finalise its agenda with Israel

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Information Minister Ma'n Abu Nowar Wednesday denied reports that Jordan was close to signing a "declaration of principles" in the ongoing Middle East peace talks with Israel.

Dr. Abu Nowar was referring to reports carried by the Associated Press and Israel Television. The AP later corrected its report to say that Jordan was close to "concluding a declaration of principles," with Israel.

The AP, Reuters as well as AFP carried similar reports attributed to unnamed Jordanian officials saying that Jordan was close to finalising a "declaration of principles" — essentially meaning an agenda for the Jordanian-Israeli track of negotiations.

Officials quoted by Reuters said Jordan would probably sign the document during the current round of talks in Washington, but the French news agency (AFP) quoted its sources as saying that the Kingdom would not sign such a document but would announce its contents after the Palestinians and Israelis sign an accord on Palestinian autonomy.

The AP quoted Dr. Abu Nowar as saying that Jordanian and Israeli negotiators "are discussing a statement of principles and I think progress could be achieved in that regard."

Dr. Abu Nowar said once the deal is finalised, it would be brought back to the Jordanian and Israeli governments for signing.

He stressed that the declaration did not mean a peace treaty between the two countries. But he added: "This agenda is one step forward toward."

He refused to speculate how soon the declaration could be finalised, but another senior cabinet member said it would be "in the next few days."

According to the official quoted by the AFP, Jordan "will not sign an agreement but rather announce (the contents of) the joint agenda which doesn't need to be signed."

Israeli and Jordanian negotiators in earlier rounds of peace talks developed a joint agenda outlining the course of future negotiations, the official said. It is designed to lead to a peace treaty.

"We did not announce this agenda because we were waiting for progress to be achieved with the Palestinians," the official added.

(Continued on page 10)

Arafat is taking new risk for peace — the question is: Will it work?

By Lamin K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

REACHING a separate accord on Palestinian self-rule with the Israelis, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat is venturing into a risky gamble that could result in either the loss of his organisation's legitimacy or success in achieving Palestinian sovereignty.

At stake is not only Palestinian national unity, but also Arab solidarity behind the Palestinian cause and most certainly the promise of statehood.

Mr. Arafat, and the small group of consultants who have been working in or known about the secret negotiations, with Israel, are optimistic that by finally getting the Israelis to talk directly to them, the PLO has succeeded in greatly enhancing its Palestinian credibility.

According to these circles, according to well-

informed sources, is that regardless of the shortcomings of the accord, once the PLO is part of the peace process the U.S. and Israel would have to accept Palestinian national rights.

The hoped-for scenario, according to official statements and interviews, goes like this: Once the PLO establishes itself on the ground in the form of a provisional government or a political party, it will be able to start building the infrastructure of a future Palestinian state, particularly when economic aid starts flowing in.

A combination of improving the socio-economic conditions in the desperately poor and crowded Gaza Strip and in Jericho and some form of Palestinian authority will make it possible for Palestinians to start the process of statehood.

Mr. Arafat is taking a risk, according to these circles, according to well-

complicated by many serious obstacles. These include the provisions of the accord itself, the lack of consensus among the Palestinians and the inevitable dependence on financial aid from the Arabs themselves and foreign donors who might not want to see or support an independent Palestinian state.

The Israeli-Palestinian accord refers to a "marshall plan" that most Palestinian officials suspect aims at improving conditions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip but not at paving the way for eventual sovereignty.

Furthermore, Israel, which will remain in charge of external security and border crossing points, thus controlling any Palestinian authority's access to the outside world, will still have the ability and the power to put pressure on or even strangle any attempt to establish a state.

It is doubtless, according to information available about previous PLO-Israeli secret

contacts, that Mr. Arafat is also partly betting on a positive response by the Israeli public opinion to calls for co-existence after a Palestinian authority, regardless how limited, is established.

Mr. Arafat seems to be confident that he will eventually gain the support of the Palestinians and assert his authority through dominating the elected administrative council and the Palestinian police force.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Palestinian officials say that Mr. Arafat expects his Fateh group, which will be transformed from a liberation movement into a political party, to get the biggest share in the elections.

The officials anticipate the formation of a sizeable Palestinian police force, including units from the Palestine Liberation

Army stationed in Jordan and Egypt. "The Israelis will allow Palestinians who carry Jordanian passports or Egyptian documents to be part of the police force," said one PLO official.

Critics of Mr. Arafat warn that such a scenario is unrealistic, and they charge that the Palestinian authority will end up doing the dirty work for the Israelis by quelling the opposition and ensuring that Israeli targets are not attacked.

In statements he gave in Cairo this past week, Mr. Arafat dismissed warnings against a possible civil war by saying: "This will not happen. The Palestinian police will take care of Palestinian security."

If anything, such statements have reinforced the arguments of the opponents of the Jericho-Gaza first accord that in the absence of Palestinian consensus the only way of maintaining stability will involve violent suppression of any dissent — a factor that will

undermine stability and provide the Israelis with a pretext to block Palestinian sovereignty. So far, Mr. Arafat has not even tried to attain minimum consensus apparently for fear that a national dialogue would restrict his margin of manoeuvrability.

Although the PLO leader has always been known for his single-handed style in running his organisation he has never ignored the Palestinian groups and institutions to the extent of not even consulting with the Executive Committee about the accord, even after it was signed.

He has obviously decided to take things into his own hands and not to allow anybody to stand in his way as he believes that an Israeli recognition of the PLO could pave the way for real opportunities and breakthroughs, some Palestinian sources say.

Mr. Arafat's adviser Bassam Abu Sharif's statement Tuesday that the PLO will dissolve

itself to form a provisional government, which seems to be true, might explain Mr. Arafat's disregard of PLO institutions, although Yasser Abed Rabbo, another confidant of the PLO chairman, denied the statement yesterday.

In fact several PLO Executive Committee members and other senior officials have been complaining over the last few months that Mr. Arafat has started a de facto dismantling of PLO institutions by ignoring their role and the way he has been allegedly selective in suspending funds for certain departments.

Many claim that the Fateh movement, or at least those who support Mr. Arafat's negotiating tactics, have not been affected by the cuts.

Mr. Arafat's tactics appear to have succeeded in perplexing the opposition, whose leaders are worried about further contributing to destruction of the PLO if they call for his

resignation or move to form an alternative organisation.

Leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) George Habbash has already charged that Mr. Arafat "no longer represents the Palestinian people."

But even though opposition is rapidly building up, its manifestations so far have been confined to statements, signed by many members of the Palestine National Council (PNC), merely urging Mr. Arafat to suspend peace talks with Israel.

The magnitude of the opposition has not deterred the PLO leader, who is determined, it seems, to go all the way in the hope of achieving something for the Palestinians as soon as he can.

What alarms his critics and even supporters though is that he seems to be putting all of his eggs in one basket and is not leaving himself enough room to withdraw if his strategy does not work.

Palestinians and Israelis — double vision when it comes to future

By Nicolas B. Tatro
The Associated Press
OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Palestinians say withdrawal. Israelis say redeployment. Such word play reflects the double vision the two sides have of what autonomy — Palestinians say transitional period — will bring to the occupied West Bank, Gaza Strip and, depending on the script, East Jerusalem.

Israel views the proposed plan as an experiment that will test the ability of the Palestinians to rule themselves without posing a "security" threat to the Jewish state.

If it does not work out, the army can roll back in and restore order. If it does, Israel still plans to keep all of Jerusalem as its "capital" and maintain Jewish settlements and possibly security posts in occupied areas.

Palestinians, however, see the plan as an initial stage on route to independent statehood, or at least to a confederation with Jordan in which would have an equal say.

Palestinians envision East Jerusalem, which was seized by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war, ultimately becoming the Palestinian capital and Palestinian refugees abroad being allowed to return. All Israeli soldiers and settlers would eventually withdraw.

The yawning gap in vision fuels the arguments over the more mundane details involved in implementing the interim self-rule plan, under which the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho will get more of a taste of independence than the rest of the occupied lands.

One area of ongoing dispute, for example, involves the 140 settlements in which 120,000 Israelis live among nearly two million Palestinians.

Both sides agree the Palestinian self-governing authority will not rule over settlements or their residents in the interim period. But the Palestinians want assurances that no new settlements will be built in occupied areas during that time.

Jerusalem, where 350,000 Jews and 150,000 Arabs live in distinctly separate areas, also remains a bubbling issue.

Both sides agree that Palestinians from Jerusalem will be allowed to vote in elections for the self-rule council and be

elected to posts in the autonomous government.

But Palestinians want Israel to stop building new housing for Israelis in the war-won sector of the city and to define what participation in elections will mean to Palestinian residents of Jerusalem.

"This is the main defect of the agreement as far as we Palestinians are concerned," said Ghassan Khatib, a delegate to the peace negotiations who has boycotted recent rounds of peace talks in Washington.

Jericho, the proposed seat of the Palestinian proto-government that may be headed by Yasser Arafat, has also not been defined, at least in geographic terms.

Jericho is a sleepy town with a population of about 15,000 but if three neighboring refugee camps are included, the autonomous plan could change that.

The reason, says Dr. Khatib, is that about 70,000 of the camps' former residents live in Jordan and would seek to return if the PLO leadership took over.

Palestinians also are seeking a corridor to connect the Gaza Strip, located on the Mediterranean Sea bordering Egypt, with the West Bank, which is a landlocked area between Israel and Jordan.

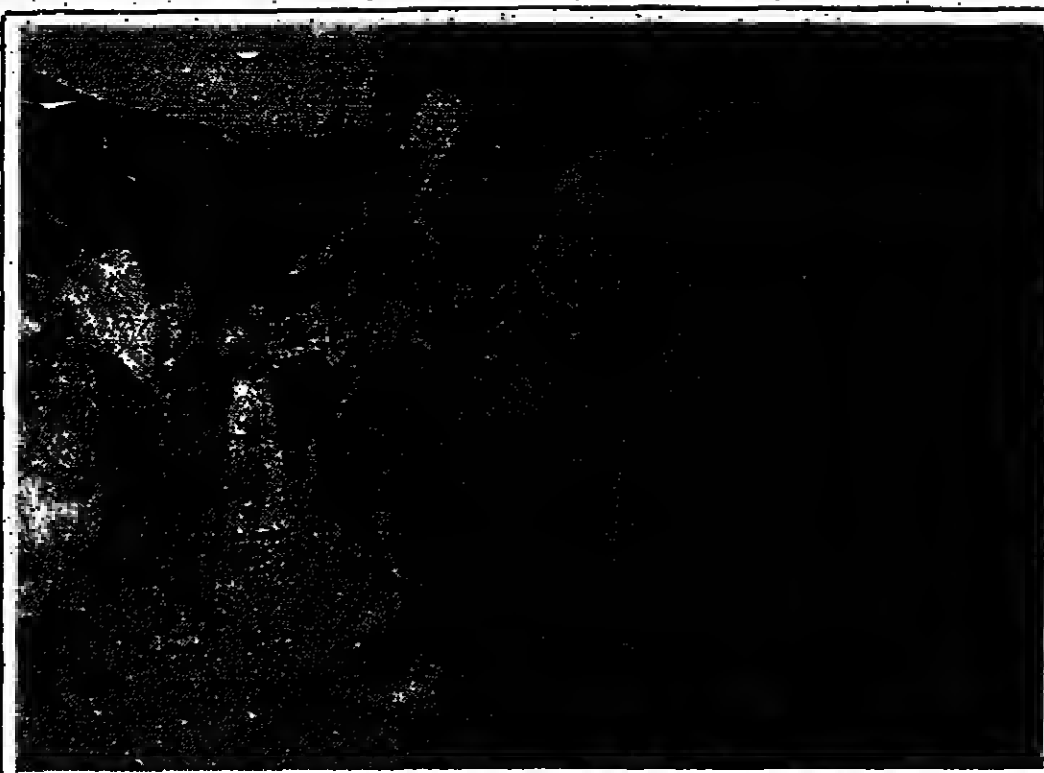
The proposed plan maintains Israeli control of the land and provides no hard link between the two. Palestinians are seeking Israeli assurances that residents and commerce can travel unperturbed, without security checks.

The powers of Palestinian police, the control of bridges with Jordan, the presence of international observers and other issues also need to be defined in detail.

The two sides have at least until the end of the year to work out the details before implementation begins. Proponents said none of the disagreements are show stoppers.

"I see no item as having this potential," said Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin. "No one is looking for artificial excuses."

Ahmad Tibi, an Israeli-Arab doctor who has helped arrange meetings between PLO officials and Israelis, agreed: "I do not think the two leaderships which have made bold historic decisions will create obstacles over small details."



PROTESTERS: Fighters of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) spray slogans on a wall against the Palestinian autonomy agreement. Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) spray slogans on a wall against the Palestinian autonomy agreement in South Lebanon (AFP photo)

Prosecutors seek delay in BNL trial

ATLANTA (AP) — Prosecutors asked Tuesday to delay the start of a trial next week for the former Atlanta branch manager of Italy's Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL) on charges of illegally lending \$5.5 billion to Iraq.

Prosecutors told U.S. District Judge G. Ernest Tidwell they need more time to interview 13 key witnesses in Italy.

Christopher Drogoul is scheduled to go on trial Sept. 8 charged with defrauding BNL and mislending federal bank regulators when he lent money that Iraq used to build up its war machine before the 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

David T. Shelleby, a U.S. Justice Department lawyer, did not ask for a specific new trial date, but said depositions cannot be taken in Italy until October because Italian courts are not in session.

Mr. Tidwell did not immediately rule on the request.

Prosecutors say the Italian witnesses, including former BNL officials, are crucial to the case.

Mr. Drogoul contends he had approval from his superiors in Rome.

The case became public when federal agents raided BNL's Atlanta office four years ago. Mr. Drogoul pleaded guilty last year to some of the charges and his lawyers accused the Bush administration of covering up government complicity. The plea was withdrawn midway through a sentencing hearing.

Mr. Drogoul's lawyers have subpoenaed Mr. Bush to testify.

The witnesses sought by the prosecutors include former BNL officials Giacomo Pedde, Teodoro Monaco, Angelo Florio, Neri Neri, Edmondo Alvisi, Pier Domenico Gallo, Licio Constantini, Gian Maria Sartorelli, Franco de Piano, Gerardo Ruggiero and Francesco Dignardi.

The government also plans to take depositions from Marco Lamazzi and Giovanni D'Ercole, officials of the Danilotti Steel Co.

During the past several days, Mr. Tidwell has issued rulings sharply limiting the scope of evidence allowed in the trial.

He said he will not allow Mr. Drogoul to use evidence about U.S. foreign policy. Mr. Drogoul has argued that his actions were consistent with U.S. policy in the 1980s to encourage trade with Iraq and that the federal government was aware of his deals with Iraq.

"A defendant cannot simply rely on his own 'and' and 'but' to firm up his case," Mr. Tidwell said, "while he is submitting false and fraudulent statements to the court."

Mr. Tidwell barred the use of documents from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the State Department sought by the defense. He also rejected a defense request for records of a consulting firm run by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

Mr. Dittel is one of three managers of the company accused of violating German export control laws by selling more than \$18 million in war material to Iraq in 1990.

The material they are alleged to have sold includes, according to the indictment, parts for Scud rockets, which Iraq fired on Saudi Arabia and Israel during the 1991 war.

Until Mr. Dittel's partial admission on Monday, the three managers had all claimed that they did not violate export-control laws. Their trial is expected to continue through mid-December.

Court refuses to block Demjanjuk U.S. return

CINCINNATI, Ohio (R) — A U.S. appeals court opened the way on Tuesday for accused Nazi guard John Demjanjuk to return to the United States later this week if an Israeli court sets him free.

The court in Cincinnati rejected a plea from the U.S. Justice Department for another hearing on the reentry question.

Three judges of the appeals panel earlier this summer had ordered that the 73-year-old one-time auto worker from suburban Cleveland be allowed to return while his lawyers try to get his 1986 extradition to Israel reversed.

The Justice Department then asked the entire 14 judges of the appeals court to hold a hearing aimed at overturning the earlier ruling, saying the Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk had lied about his war time activities when he emigrated to the United States.

It was that request that was rejected on Tuesday.

The Justice Department is free to appeal against the ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court. Spokesman Carl Stern said no decision has been made on what to do next, adding that an appeal was a "totally open question."

The Israeli supreme court on July 29 overturned Mr. Demjanjuk's 1988 conviction and death sentence for being "Tyan the terrible," who operated gas chambers at the Treblinka camp.

But Holocaust survivors and Nazi hunters said sufficient evidence had been produced during the course of Mr. Demjanjuk's appeal to prove he was a guard in at least one other camp and should be held for trial on those charges.

Israeli prosecutors have told that country's supreme court they do not want to try Mr. Demjanjuk again. On Aug. 20, Israel's chief judge put off until at least Sept. 2 a decision on whether to release Mr. Demjanjuk or hold him for possible further prosecution.

Jewish groups angry at his possible return to the United States have promised to hold demonstrations, and one extremist group has pledged to track him down and kill him.

His family has said he will most likely go into hiding if he returns to his adopted country.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Experts inspect suspect cargo on Chinese ship

MANAMA (R) — Experts have yet to complete inspection of a Chinese ship suspected by the United States of carrying banned chemical weapon materials for Iran. Gulf-based diplomats said Wednesday. Saudi and Chinese experts began inspecting the Yimhe on Saturday two days after it docked at the Gulf port of Damman. One diplomat said the inspection could last a week or more depending on how many containers will be inspected. Saudi Arabia agreed to receive the ship, owned by Peking-based China Ocean Shipping Group company, to resolve an impasse over its cargo between Peking and Washington. The Yimhe was originally headed for Dubai, which handles cargoes earmarked for reexport to Iran, but the United Arab Emirates refused to let the ship enter its ports. The Yimhe's captain, Zhang Rude, said on Thursday 24 of the 628 containers carried by the ship were to be transhipped to Iran from Doha.

U.S. urges Thailand to recall workers from Libya

BANGKOK (AFP) — The United States has urged Thailand to bring home Thai citizens working in chemical and nuclear facilities in Libya, an official said Wednesday. A senior U.S. diplomat met Interior Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyuth and other officials earlier this week to convey the message, the official added. There are some 25,000 Thais working in Libya, many of them not registered with the labor department here, an official said. About 200 Thais are estimated to be working in nuclear weapons facilities in Libya, press reports said Wednesday.

Confession saves smuggler from surgery

DUBAI (R) — The surgeons were getting ready for an emergency operation. Then the patient confessed. The lump causing three days of intense pain in his stomach, he admitted, was \$26,000 in rolled-up 100 notes which he had swallowed to smuggle from India. The smuggler, an unnamed Indian businessman, had used the trick before but not with so much money, according to the Gulf News which reported the incident on Wednesday. Doctors gave him a laxative.

Gulf Arabs hold 12-day naval exercises

DUBAI (R) — Gulf Arab states held 12 days of naval exercises in the region, their first since Iran's deployment of two Russian submarines in the area. The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said the kingdom hosted naval vessels from the six-country Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) which conducted maneuvers inside the Gulf waterway and in the Arabian Sea. The agency did not say how many Gulf Arab warships took part in "solidarity 3" which ended on Aug. 26 but said airforce planes had also joined in.

Military hunts arms caches in Djibouti

DJIBOUTI (AFP) — The Djibouti army is on a sweep through the Maba mountains in the north-east in a hunt for weapons abandoned by guerrillas of the Front for Restoration of Unity and Democracy (FRUD), military headquarters disclosed here Wednesday. The operation began on Sunday and would last a further two days, Chief of the General Staff Colonel Fathi Ahmad Hussein said in a communique. A joint army and police operation in July chased the FRUD out of northern towns and villages it had held since launching an uprising against the government in 1991. Many FRUD members took refuge in neighboring Eritrea. The front draws its support from the Afar ethnic group in the Horn of Africa territory. A statement issued by the movement in Paris a month ago said its fighting forces were intact and that it had carried out attacks against government troops since the July campaign.

Kuwaiti border post fired at from Iraq

KUWAIT (R) — Unidentified gunmen fired AK-47 assault rifle shots at a Kuwaiti police post near the Iraqi border, an interior ministry official said Wednesday. "No Monday (evening) eight shots from an AK-47 were fired at (Al Abdali) border post from a passenger car," the official told Reuters by telephone. No one was injured and Kuwait reported the incident to the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observers Mission (UNIKOM) which was deployed in the area after a U.S.-led military alliance forced Iraqi troops out of Kuwait in 1991. Similar incidents have been reported in the past. The official said Monday's shooting at Al Abdali, 120 kilometers north of Kuwait City, "targeted the antenna of the wireless radio of the post and no one was injured. Kuwait recently work on a trench and a rampart along its 207 kilometres frontier with Iraq to deter infiltrators."

Tehran moneychangers robbed in daylight

NICOSIA (R) — Armed robbers posing as police looking for fake dollars made off with hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of cash from money exchange shops in central Tehran on Wednesday, shop owners said. They said up to eight shops in a row on Ferdowsi Street, one of the Iranian capital's busiest, were robbed in the daring, mid-morning heist. The gang leader, in civilian clothes but identifying himself as a police captain, sent out the customers from each shop saying he was looking for fake money on Interior Ministry orders. One of the victims, who asked not to be named, told Reuters that police caught several of the robbers but only after their leaders disappeared with the cash. An interior ministry official in Tehran said the matter was being investigated and he could give no details. The robbery could become the first big headache for new Interior Minister Ali Mohammad Bakharati who vowed after taking office last month to step up law enforcement. The robbed dealer said the "captain" went to his shop with two guards and handed him several forms to fill out. He disconnected the phone and returned later to collect the money and the forms.

Israeli helicopter rockets South Lebanon

SIDON (AFP) — An Israeli helicopter raided a pro-Iranian guerrilla stronghold in South Lebanon Wednesday, shortly after an attack on Israel's proxy militia, police said. The helicopter fired two rockets at a target in the Jebel Safi area, a stronghold of Hizbollah guerrillas east of the port city of Sidon, but there were no casualties, the police said. Guerrillas earlier fired anti-tank rockets and automatic weapons at a position in Sojod held by the South Lebanon Army militia inside Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon. There were no casualties.

Sudanese civilians seek battlefield martyrdom

By Alfred Taban
Reuters

KHARTOUM — Mohammed Ahmad Omar, at first glance, was just another battlefield statistic.

His death, on the face of it, was just the latest in a bloody struggle between Sudan's Islamic government and Christian and animist rebels.

But Dr. Omar, a former industry minister, was not a regular soldier — he was one of a growing number of civilians, seeking martyrdom on the battlefields of the south.

Diplomats say military leader Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Ali Bashir and his government have gone out of their way to make martyrdom appear attractive.

On the television, radio and press, the people are being told that dying for your faith is one of the best things that can ever happen to you, one said.

Gen. Bashir's government, like Islamic Iran on which it models itself, pays lavish tri-

bute to its martyrs — naming training camps or even streets after them. More importantly, it takes special care of their families.

"Many faithful Muslims think fighting in the south is a jihad (holy war)," one diplomat said.

Sudan's civil war broke out in 1983 when the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) rebelled against what it saw as domination of the mainly Christian and animist south by the mostly Arab, Muslim north.

Former army Colonel John Garang, a southerner, deserted from the army and set up the SPLA when the then government asked him to crush a mutiny by troops in his home town of Bor.

The conflict was not without precedent. African southerners waged a secessionist bush war that claimed a million lives before a 1972 agreement granted the south autonomy.

In 1989, Gen. Bashir, who toppled a civilian administration that year, formed a people's militia, the Popular Defence Force, to help fight the rebels in the south.

Students, civil servants, retired soldiers and other civilians receive two or three months training. Many then go to the south to fight. Many do not return.

The size of the Popular Defence Force remains unknown but last month, 18,000 graduated in a ceremony in Khartoum.

Gen. Bashir attended the ceremony and said the training of people would continue until all those able to carry arms were trained.

Deputy head of state Major General Ali Zubeir Mohamed Salih said last year that more than 100 students had been killed in the south.

Professionals such as engineers and pharmacists and even members of Sudan's 330-member unelected parliament — the Transitional National Assembly — have died in action there.

But Dr. Omar, killed on Aug. 21, was chairman of the

government-owned Gum Arabic Company at the time of his death. As such, he was the highest government official to die in the fighting since the SPLA launched its revolt.

Civilians do not have to fight in the south but reports from the battlefield say the Popular Defence Force fight more bravely than the soldiers they are sent to help.

In that, their exploits recall those of Iran's Basij Mozaffarian (mobilisation of the oppressed) during its 1980-1988 war with Iraq. Like the Basij, they seem to take unnecessary risks, resulting in a very high death toll.

Last year, the sister of a second-year student of education at the University of Khartoum, Sudan's oldest institution of higher learning gave an insight into the thinking of a martyr.

She told state television her brother, Abu Djama Ali, had always wanted to be a martyr but had survived an initial tour of duty in southern Sudan.

His dream was to go to

Afghanistan to fight alongside the Mujahadeen there, she said, but when a chance came to go back to the south, he leapt at it. He did not return.

Diplomats say attempts by Western countries, particularly the United States, to isolate Sudan is helping to create civilian martyrs in Sudan.

"Many devout Sudanese Muslims are now looking more and more towards themselves to defend their land and religion which they see as under threat from the West and its stooges — the SPLA," one said. "As a result, individuals would like to go and contribute on the war front even if they have little military training and virtually no material rewards to obtain from it."

Washington added Sudan to its list of countries that sponsor "terrorism" on Aug. 18.

The government may offer the martyrs little in the way of financial inducement, but, through a group called the Martyrs Organisation, it takes care of their families.

The organisation has shares

in public companies such as the Nasr Public Press and Publication Company, publisher of the Nasr newspaper, the former armed forces paper Al Ghatat Al Mualimani.

"It receives all government shares in non-profit making corporations due for privatisation," and publishes its own weekly newspaper called Al Shahid (the martyr).

Children of martyrs pay no school fees and the public is occasionally asked to make donations to the organisation.

The government honours those killed on the battlefield as heroes. Some have Popular Defence Force training camps named after them, others street names.

The University of Khartoum is organising a festival of speeches and songs of a martyred medical student.

But a bigger celebration awaits Dr. Omar. Shortly after his death, Gen. Bashir described him as an ideal soldier who sought martyrdom which was bestowed upon him by God.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30	..... Pif et Heroule
17:45	..... Goal
18:15	..... Geopolis
18:30	..... News in French
19:15	..... Azimut
19:30	..... News in Hebrew
20:00	..... News in Arabic
20:30	..... Top Choice for Comfort
21:10	..... H.E.L.P.
22:00	..... News in English
22:30	..... Movie of the Week: "American Dreamer"

PRAYER TIMES

16:46	..... Fajr
16:06	..... (Shahar) Dhuhr
16:36	..... Dhuhr
16:11	..... 'Asr
16:45	..... Maghreb
16:25	..... Isha

CHURCHES

4. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedisch, Tel. 810740
Lutherans of God Church, Tel. 32785
1. Joseph Church Tel. 62490.
Church of the Assumption Tel. 37440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Assumption Tel. 62541.
Assiout Church Tel. 63051, Tel. 62843.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 771331.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Assiout International Church Tel. 625236.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 62433.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 624932.
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures will continue its gradual drop and fine weather conditions will prevail. Winds will be moderate easterly moderate occasionally becoming active. In Aqaba winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman	Min./Max. temp.
Amman	21 / 30
Aqaba	26 / 39
Jericho	19 / 26
Jordan Valley	25 / 35

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Emergency	630541
Civil Defence Emergency	195
Fire Brigade	621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	621111
Highway Police	624302
Traffic Police	624302
Public Security Department	630521
Police Complaints	620302
Police Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	624302
Complaints	624302
Amman Municipality	767111
Telephone Information	624302
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	624302

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	
Dr. Mohammed Al-Sway	732036
Dr. Mohammed Al-Nabawi	619213
Dr. Jamal Maraga	776149
Dr. Mukhlis Halasa	819220
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdous pharmacy	776336
Al-Azma pharmacy	637035
Natour pharmacy	623672
Al-Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	649495
Saoudi pharmacy	657660
Najm pharmacy	647633

AMMAN:

Dr. Ziad Fattouh	621101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	771111
Radio Jordan	771111
Water Authority	689100
Jordan Electricity Authority	813613
Electric Power	636381
RI Flight Information	08-53300
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport	08-53300

HAZRA:

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Queen Alia Int'l. Airport	08-53300

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:	
Human Medical Centre	813613/52
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn	642816
Al-Balqa Maternity, J. Amn	642412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Maternal & Child Health	636440
Palatine, Shamsi	661174
Shamsi Hospital	669131
University Hospital	84845
Al-Muhsin Hospital	667227
The Islamic, Abdali	661757
Al-Ahli, Abdali	661646
Italian, Al-Muhajir	777013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf	771126
Arny, Marika	891617
Queen Alia Hospital	662430
Amn Hospital	674152

HAZRA:

Zarga Govt. Hospital	(09)963323
Zarga National Hospital	(09)900550
Crusik Catholic Hospital	(02)727555
Ben Sina Hospital	(09)96732
Al-Hamra Modern Hospital	(09)96979

HAZRA:

Dr. Ziad Fattouh	621101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	771111
Radio Jordan	771111
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Radio Jordan	771111
Water Authority	689100
Jordan Electricity Authority	813613
Electric Power	636381
RI Flight Information	08-533



"Crescent Night" performers rehearse one of their chosen presentations before departing for the U.S. to perform at Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts in Virginia.

Young 'ambassadors' head for opening night of international festival

AMMAN (J.T.) — Following four days of full house performances, the Jordanian people's attachment to the land, to warm family relations and to the spirit of tolerance and cooperation.

Through dance and poetry "Crescent Night" also brings to the stage the adverse effects of war and famine on the world's children and accentuates Jordan's aspiration for peaceful co-existence in a harmonious world.

In her message to the ICF participants, Queen Noor commended the festival's "inspiring commitment to encourage enjoyable cultural interaction among people from different countries...allowing participants from varied cultural traditions to discover and learn together and to

share with one another in a spirit of celebration and pride in our one human family.

The Queen added that "this same spirit is an established way of life for us in Jordan, and is deeply ingrained in both our national heritage and our contemporary development aspirations."

The ICF has been held in Virginia for the past 22 years with high attendance and media coverage.

It strives to promote peace and fellowship among children and families of different nations as children and adult performers share their cultural traditions through the universal language of the arts.

This year's theme focuses on the Middle East and Africa featuring traditional dance, theatre, puppetry, music and crafts.

"Crescent Night" which is choreographed by Rania Kamhawi, designed and directed by Lina Al Tai and carried throughout by the live music of NHF's National Music Conservatory, will also be performed at different Virginia Fairfax County schools for three days from Sept. 6-9.

It is the fifth theatre production of NHF's Theatre-in-Education Programme which was launched in 1987 to enhance the development of the educational process in Jordan through the creative medium of drama; and to promote dramatic arts.



SPECIAL ROYAL GUARDS: His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday attends training exercises performed by units of the Special Royal Guards. Accompanied by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Lt. Gen. Abdul Hafez Mirai Al Kasabneh and senior army officers, the King watched military exercises including target shooting. Later, King Hussein attended a ceremony for the graduation of security officers specialising in bodyguard and personal security. They had training in martial arts including judo and the kwan do. At the end of the ceremony the King distributed awards to those excelling in their performance. Among those attending were their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah Faisal and Prince Hamzah, the Chief of the Royal Court, Khalid Al Karaki, the King's Military Secretary HRH Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, HRH Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad, Prince Ali Ben Nayef and other officials and high ranking army officers.



CARE INTERNATIONAL IN JORDAN: Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Wednesday met with a CARE International-Australia team led by Ian Harris (centre). Dr. Majali welcomed a decision by the group to open a regional office in Amman. Jordan would be ready to offer CARE at the facilities it requires to fulfil its humanitarian mission, said the prime minister at the meeting. Mr. Harris said CARE planned to open a regional office in Amman to carry out programmes of a humanitarian and developmental nature in the countries of the area. He paid tribute to Jordan's humanitarian efforts, citing its hosting of a group of families from the Bosnia-Herzegovina and the assistance given to Somalia among other countries. Mr. Harris and his team earlier discussed CARE's plans with Minister of Social Development Mohamed Sghur (Petra photo).

Arab-European dialogue addresses different perspectives of immigration

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Common understanding over Arab and Muslim immigration to Europe was difficult to achieve at the Fifth Arab-European Dialogue meeting: from an Arab perspective, the immigrants' situation is tragic; to the Europeans it is threatening.

In his opening speech to the meeting Wednesday, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali said in his opening speech: "Ostensibly in an effort to lessen 'so-called illegal immigration' some European countries resorted to adopting policies, taking measures and promulgating laws that infringe upon the social and humanitarian rights of immigrants."

"The problem of immigration is not new," Dr. Majali said, "but it has been progressing, especially after Europe closed its borders in the southern coast of the Mediterranean where clandestine immigration emerges as a tragic and inhuman situation."

Belgium Senator Roger Henneuse explained in his lecture in the first session that the European Community (EC) has major concerns regarding immigration, particularly the present problems of rising unemployment, competition from eastern immigrants, feelings of insecurity, fear of Muslim fundamentalism and mounting xenophobia.

Mr. Henneuse said that more immigration is undesirable in the short term since it produces a racist reaction from the part of the native European population.

"Although it is not true in every case, it would seem that there is a general tendency for two things to happen when Arab immigrants have problems. Younger ones, who find themselves unemployed, may get involved in crime, while the older generation is inclined towards fundamentalism. Both developments make immigrants unpopular



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, flanked by Arab Thought Forum General Secretary Ali Um Leil (left) and Khair Eddin Haseeb, director of the Centre for the Arab Unity Studies in Beirut Wednesday addresses the Fifth Arab-European Dialogue (Petra photo).

lar with their European hosts," he said, pointing out that the EC has over 17 million. He added that this figure could rise to 20 million in the coming year.

In what he saw as immigrants doubly affected by unemployment, Ali Al Baz, director of the Moroccan Democratic Immigrant Societies in Europe, said immigrants used to occupy non-qualified positions and the number who are unemployed (18 per cent) is double that of nationals (10 per cent).

"It should be noted that in the case of qualified persons, there is objection to employing immigrants in schools, hospitals, and semi-public posts," Dr. El Baz said.

"This discrimination against foreigners aims at keeping them in this precarious, unprotected status," he maintained.

Citing various examples of north-African nationals who were refused visas to some European countries to reunite with family

members and other cases of foreign nationals who stayed in Europe for more than 10 years were denied the right to vote, Dr. Al Baz criticised racial discrimination which "is daily fed in speeches by political and by representatives of certain states."

"Racial discrimination is reflected at the ballot boxes in favour of the extreme right parties, by the collective violence in Germany and Italy or by police practices in France," he said.

Referring to statistics, Mr. Henneuse said that in an annual survey conducted last July, results show that 52 per cent of the Europeans interviewed believe that there are too many non-community foreigners in their country at present.

In addition, Mr. Henneuse indicated that the immigrant's profile has changed. "From 1960 to 1970 most of the immigrants were men, and they did not try to settle; nowadays, whole families move, and they come without the

intention of returning home," he said.

"They tend gradually to lose contact with their country of origin, which also means a gradual decline in transfers of funds back home," he said.

In what he saw as potential solution for prosperity in Europe and the Arab World, Dr. Majali maintained in his speech earlier that Europe's stability is directly related to the stability and progress of the Arab countries which "requires cooperation, exchanging interests and transfer of experience and knowledge."

"The Arab region is capable with available resources — to take in labour forces, and achieve security that would consequently prevent the rise of fundamentalism which, on its turn, is the result of poverty, unemployment and instability," he stressed. At that time, "Arab countries will be ready to deal with Europe on the basis of enlightened mutual interests."

U.S. grants Jordan \$30m in economic assistance

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two agreements, totalling a grant of \$30 million in economic assistance to Jordan were signed Wednesday by Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz and U.S. Charge D'Affaires, a.l. Douglas Keene.

The funds, which were made available following His Majesty King Hussein's recent visit to the United States, will be provided to

the government of Jordan as grants to assist the Kingdom in improving its balance of payments.

The \$30 million grant will be released in three tranches over a period of 18 months and will be used in support of the government's efforts to reform current policies, regulations and administrative procedures.

Such policies will include encouragement of investment, business licensing, temporary entry and drawback systems, as well as import and export licences.

Jordan, Syria to prepare for economic panel meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will despatch a team of officials and specialists to Damascus later this month to prepare for the Syrian-Jordanian Joint Economic Committee meeting to be held later in Amman to discuss joint projects, according to Industry and Trade Minister Bassam Al Saket.

Speaking upon returning from the Syrian capital Wednesday, the minister said the talks he held with Syrian government officials revealed the need to prepare for the economic committee meeting to be held at the ministerial level in order to discuss various issues of concern to the two countries.

During his four-day visit to Syria, Dr. Saket met with Prime Minister Mahmoud Al Zoubi and Minister of Economy and External Trade Mohammad Imadi to review economic and trade ties between the two countries.

Dr. Imadi and Dr. Saket co-chaired the general assembly meeting of the Jordan-Syria Industry Company and reviewed its work and that of the white cement plant located in Jordan and the carpet plant located in Syria, both, establishments of the joint industry company.

The two ministers underlined the need to promote the quality

of the products and increase production to meet the requirements and tastes of the consumers and the local markets in Jordan and Syria as well as neighbouring Arab states.

During his stay in Damascus, Dr. Saket opened the Jordanian wing at the Damascus International Fair, which displays a wide range of Jordanian products.

Mustafa Khreizat, the wing director, said that Syrian and other businessmen who visited the wing concluded deals to buy Jordanian goods worth JD 50,000 in the first two days of the fair.

JBASP loses case, fields candidates

By Marwan M. Shalhin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordanian Baath Arab Socialist Party (JBASP) lost a court case against the Ministry of Interior and a rival political party, the Progressive Arab Baath Party (PABP) this week after an attempt to change the PABP's name.

Ahmad Najdawi, secretary general of the JBASP took the Interior Ministry to court last spring after it licensed the PABP.

Charging that the similarity in names of the two parties would confuse people and damage the party's ability to be politically active, Mr. Najdawi took the PABP and the ministry to court and appealed for a change to the party's name.

Monday the Higher Court of Justice turned down Mr. Najdawi's appeal.

A lawyer himself, Mr. Najdawi said the court had ruled and he would not re-appeal. "The court has decided and that is the end of that," Mr. Najdawi told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Najdawi's JBASP party had organisational links with the Baath party in Baghdad before it made it split and became an independent Jorda-

nian political party last January.

Claims that the party still has organisational links to Baghdad have been vehemently denied by party members and no proof to such links, which could strip the party of its credibility and legal status, has been brought forward.

The PABP, a Baath party with previous links to the Baath party in Damascus before it became independent and legalised last April, is one of the few parties which will field no candidates in the Nov. 8 parliamentary elections.

"We will not field any candidates this election," Foad Dabbour told the Jordan Times in a recent interview.

The JBASP announced that it will field candidates in 8 electoral districts.

"Thus far we have three candidates whose names we are willing to announce," said the JBASP secretary general, naming Khalil Haddadin as the party's candidate in the third district of Amman, Fayed Jam'at Al Hourani as its candidate in Madaba and Ayed Al Amerieh as its candidate in Tafleh.

Mr. Najdawi said the party would also field as of yet unannounced candidates in Karak, Irbid, Salt, Mafraq and the Jordan Valley.

Road safety drive starts

By Rana Huseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Starting on Sept. 4, the Traffic Department will begin what it terms as a serious campaign targeting more than 300,000 motor vehicles in the Kingdom in an effort to promote traffic safety.

Traffic officials will check whether back and front lights are functioning; whether motorists are wearing seat belts and whether fuel emissions from vehicles are causing pollution.

This inspection drive aims to reduce the number of accidents, insure a pollution-free environment and increase driver awareness of traffic safety regulations.

According to a recent study by the department, conducted during the first five months of this year, the number of traffic accidents totalled 9,397, resulting in 170 deaths and 4,277 injuries.

Annually, about 400 people are killed in road accidents.

"Recently, we have noticed that drivers do not follow traffic regulations as they should, and this negligence results in the fatal accidents we see or hear about every day," said

Mosayed M. Mubaslat, assistant to the director of the Public Security Department (PSD) for Traffic Affairs.

Those motorists found not wearing seat belts will be fined. Furthermore, drivers of vehicles with non-functioning lights or which emit polluting fumes will have their car licences seized.

Although the campaign focuses on particular violations, Mr. Mubaslat stressed that officials will continue to look for other violations as well.

The PSD official said he hoped that the last two weeks of advertising for this campaign has reached all drivers and that they have taken the necessary steps to maintain their vehicles.

"I hope we don't have to issue tickets or seize car licences, and that drivers have had their car problems repaired."

He was also quick to emphasise that the main purpose of this campaign is traffic education — and not the collection of fines from the drivers. "Our concern is for the education and safety of drivers, not materialistic like most people think," he said.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Shaker Al Shadi at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by 25 Jordanian artists at the Housing Bank Complex exhibition hall.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Bishara Najjar at Exhibition Art Gallery, Amra Shopping Centre.
- ★ New art gallery, "Darat Al Fann," of the Abdul Majed Shoman Foundation. Programme includes the permanent exhibition and the "Chalk" exhibition in Jabal Lawit.
- ★ Exhibition by Syrian artist Nadhir Inna'il at Baladna Art Gallery.

SHOWS

- ★ "The Eternal Torch," a variety of Circassian dances performances by Al-Jed Al-Jed Club at the club's premises in the Seventh Circle.

RJ promises to solve flight delays

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national carrier, Wednesday acknowledged that it was facing a problem of flight delays, but promised that it would be solved by mid-September.

According to Mumb Touqan, assistant vice-president (public relations) of the airline, the delays were the direct result of extra flights during the high season.

"We are currently having a high utilisation percentage of our aircraft (all 17 of them), and because we don't have any back-up aircraft, technical problems are bound to occur and so the delays," he said.

Complaints of flight delays were not limited to certain routes which are usually over-loaded in the summer, like the Gulf countries or the United States, when expatriates vacationing in Jordan travel back to their countries of residence for work or study, but included almost all RJ flights.

Delays averaged between two to 12 hours with some lucky passengers being informed beforehand of the expected delay and the less fortunate ones were stranded at airports for several

hours.

Last week, the Paris-Amman flight was delayed for 12 hours when the aircraft was grounded with a technical problem. When the second aircraft reached Paris, it was also faced with a technical malfunction.

"So we had to repair two aircraft and the passengers were accommodated in the airport hotel for the night," Mr. Touqan said.

"Safety is our number one priority, with crew rest and flight regulations being strictly met," he stressed.

Another problem cited by RJ passengers is over-booking, which can reach as high as 100 passengers.

Travel agents say that over the years, no-shows by passengers had reached such a high level that almost all airlines overbook their flights, giving confirmed seats to passengers on a first-come-first-served basis.

"No airline would actually admit on the record that they resort to overbooking to ensure that their flights are not empty," said a travel agent, preferring anonymity.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

الجزيرة الأردنية السياسية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

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Accord in proper light

PROPER AND just judgement on the draft declaration of principles on the Palestinian interim self-government struck between Israel and the PLO in Norway had to await the disclosure of the full official text. Unfortunately, many parties on both sides of the fence had jumped into hasty conclusions prior to having an opportunity to examine the wording of the Oslo agreement. The Palestinian side, for example, was bitterly and acrimoniously divided on whether to endorse or to reject it. The rejectionists among the Palestinians have called for a fight against the agreement by all available means. On the Israeli side as well there were equally strong voices demanding the outright condemnation of the deal and its unequivocal rejection. In effect there was a meeting of the minds between extremists in both camps who saw in the declaration of principles a big threat to their interests and ideals.

Arab and Israeli moderates might see the accord in different light: It is an integral part of the peace process, and, as such, the negotiations on the permanent status should lead to the implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. If it is indeed this, achieving it would have been no small feat. It is also made clear in Article IV of the declaration that the "West Bank and Gaza Strip area is a single territorial unit whose integrity will be preserved during the interim period." This articulation repudiates the allegation that the Gaza and Jericho first option is the first and last formula for solving the Palestinian problem.

As for the future of Jerusalem and Israeli settlements, the principal bones of contention between the Palestinians and the Israelis, paragraph 3 of Article V of the declaration should reduce Arab anxieties since it stipulates that these thorny subjects as well as others, such as the Palestinian refugees issue, "shall" be the subject of negotiations not later than the beginning of the third year of the interim period. This is in stark contrast with the submission of some Arab rejectionists who maintain that the occupied Palestinian territories have been savagely and irrevocably torn apart and that the issue of Jerusalem and Israeli settlements have been shelved for all times.

Again, there is no telling whether such an assurance as embodied in the declaration will be honoured by Israel in the end. This is where the supporters of the accord are obviously taking a big risk. But, to paraphrase a comment by an imminent Palestinian, yesterday a risk for peace needs to be taken anyway, provided the link between the interim solution and the final status is iron-clad guaranteed.

Equally troubling from the Arab point of view is the authority of the projected council which is supposed to be democratically elected under international supervision not later than nine months after the entry into force of the declaration. Even though the council will have both executive and legislative powers, the scope of its jurisdiction is made expressly limited to certain categories of authority that will not touch the territorial issue. This is perhaps the biggest drawback in the whole deal since it gives the impression that the envisaged Palestinian authority will exercise power over the people but not over the territory.

On balance, though the accord offers a new historic chance for peace provided the Rabin government is sincere about its protestations in favour of peace with the Palestinian side.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's visit to Damascus came in the midst of fast moving political development that will have their effect on the Middle East region for generations, said Al Dustour Arabic daily Wednesday. The visit and the King's talks with President Hafez Assad reaffirm the two countries' determination to safeguard the united Arab stand and maintain coordination and cooperation among the Arab states, especially those involved in the Middle East peace process, said the paper. It was the cohesion among the Arab negotiators and the continued coordination among the Arab governments involved in the talks that so far ensured a solid Arab stand backing the nation's demands for the establishment of justice and an end to occupation, said the paper. The more Israel shows determination to reach the Arab ranks, the more is the determination of the Arab parties to consolidate their coordination and their united ranks, added the paper. Indeed, said the paper, the Arab parties are in need of closer coordination at the start of the 11th round of peace talks in Washington and at a time when the negotiations have reached a crucial stage. Jordan and Syria, concluded the paper, have a major role to play in the negotiations as the two countries continue to confront together the challenge posed by the Israeli occupation and as they strive together to safeguard national interests.

ANY ARAB and any Palestinian has the right to express his views as to the controversial "Gaza-Jericho first" option because this is a matter of destiny, said Saleh Al Qallal, a columnist in Al Dustour. However heated are the debates, the opposing sides should always resort to reason and prevent any real clash, said the writer. On the whole, the opposition should by no means try to impose its views on the people or on the other side by force, nor should the controversy lead the Palestinians inside the occupied Arab lands to conflict, said the writer. Not only inside the occupied lands but also in Jordan and other Arab countries where Palestinians are, one can see that the debate is heating up and the controversy is assuming far reaching dimensions, said the writer.

Two more keys to AIPAC's success — power, strategy

By Dr. James Zogby

Following is the second of a series of four articles contributed by the writer, who is president of the Arab American Institute in Washington, to the Jordan Times. The article examines how AIPAC has created an aura of power and how it has developed a winning electoral strategy.

The ability to create an aura of power

Writing in the pro-Israel magazine New Republic, Morton Kondracke reported a conversation with an anonymous member of Congress who told him:

"If there were a secret ballot, aid (to Israel) would be cut severely. It's not out of affection anymore that Israel gets \$3 billion a year. It's from fear that you'll wake up one morning and find that an opponent has \$500,000 to run against you."

It is, in large measure, this kind of fear of power that has created support for The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC's) initiatives in Congress.

To some extent, fear of AIPAC's clout is justified; but I believe that the lobby has magnified its claims of power out of all proportion in order to cultivate fear among members of Congress, thereby enhancing its power.

Shortly after losing the vote to sell AWACs to Saudi Arabia, AIPAC pledged that it would defeat those whom it held responsible for its defeat. By the mid-1980s, it would boast of success, since many of the offending senators had, in fact, been defeated. But was AIPAC solely responsible for these losses, or was their boasting unjustified?

The most prominent of the pro-AWACs sale senators to have been defeated was Senator Charles Percy of Illinois, who lost his 1984 reelection bid. In a speech in Toronto in 1984, AIPAC's Executive Director Tom Dine, in speaking of the Percy defeat, gloated:

"All the Jews, from coast to coast, gathered to oust Percy. And the American politicians — those who hold public positions now, and those who aspire — got the message."

It was true that AIPAC helped to direct over \$300,000 in PAC money first to a primary opponent of Mr. Percy's and then to the Democratic candidate who defeated him — Paul Simon. It was also true that a wealthy Jewish donor, Michael Goland, illegally contributed \$1,000,000 to finance a right-wing attack on Mr. Percy to siphon some conservative votes away from the Republican Senator (the Goland-funded effort charged that Mr. Percy was pro-abortion). But the reasons for Mr. Percy's defeat may be found elsewhere.

In fact, I was at a forum with the former senator shortly after his defeat when he charged that it was the African American vote in Chicago, the largest city in his state, that had cost him his election. In previous races, Mr. Percy, an advocate of civil rights, had secured endorsements and votes from the African American community. African Americans, angry with the power structure in Chicago (which was white and Democratic), had on many occasions refused to endorse the white Democratic candidates in statewide elections in order to show their displeasure over the way they were treated by the Democratic Party in Chicago. Voting patterns in Illinois are such that unless a Democrat can win overwhelmingly in the city of Chicago, he cannot win the whole state — the rest of which is largely Republican. Mr. Percy's previous victories came because he was able to win some of Chicago's small and influential Jewish vote and, more importantly, a good portion of Chicago's African American vote.

By 1984, however, things had changed. The notorious white mayor of Chicago, Richard Daley Sr., had died and an African American Mayor, Harold Washington, had been elected. The Democratic Senatorial nominee, Congressman Paul Simon, was a liberal with strong civil rights credentials and was also a close friend of the new mayor. Thus it was that Mr. Percy lost the African American vote and this, he felt, had cost him the election. While it was true the Jewish community had been involved in this race, with many opposing Mr. Percy (although Mr. Percy did have his strong Jewish supporters as well), it was not their work alone that brought his defeat. In addition, it is important to note that neither the Middle East nor the pro-Israel PACs became an issue during the campaign (despite Arab Americans urging Mr. Percy to speak out on these subjects), and Mr. Percy even went so far as to discourage active Arab American involvement or fundraising for his campaign for fear, he said, of antagonising AIPAC.

AIPAC's boasts that it "beat Percy" rang hollow, and so many observers came to believe that it was the lobby which had "single-handedly" brought down the mighty senator. Arab Americans and their supporters unfortunately have, on too many occasions, played into the hands of AIPAC's myth-makers by agreeing with their boastful claims, and reinforcing them. Several other so-called AIPAC "victories" can also be better understood when seen in terms of changing voter demographics and other decisive political dynamics that affect elections. A closer look at AIPAC's record will show that not only didn't it win all of the races it claimed to win, but it has lost many races it has worked hard to win.

An examination of AIPAC and pro-Israel PAC supported candidates in 1992, for example, shows that in the elections involving the top ten recipients of pro-Israel PAC money, like in the case of the highly publicised AIPAC effort to defend Democrat John Chafee of Rhode Island in 1988, AIPAC and all of its money was unable to prevail. The lobby and its money can play an important role in an election — but in the end, voters and domestic issues are the decisive factors in every victory and defeat.

But the facts have not mattered — what has been most telling is the myth of AIPAC power, as exemplified by Morton Kondracke's anonymous congressman. This myth is one that AIPAC has deliberately cultivated, much to its advantage and, as I have noted, Arab Americans and their supporters have all too often mistakenly encouraged these efforts.

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While the myth of AIPAC power in elections is overblown (many AIPAC supported candidates don't win elections), it is the strategic use of money that contributes to AIPAC's success in lobbying. But this is only one part of AIPAC's overall strategy

in winning passage of legislation. The other components of its winning legislative strategy includes the following points:

a) In elections, AIPAC uses threats and promises of contributions to shape the policy of as many candidates as possible — before they are elected.

Working with either its own members or utilising the organised Jewish community in each congressional district, AIPAC directs visits to every serious congressional candidate. The candidates are asked to prepare or endorse an already prepared statement on the Middle East which is filled with the usual pro-Israeli rhetoric. Sometimes implicit in the request, and sometimes quite explicit, is the promise of campaign funds or the threat of support for an opponent.

The threat can be a successful form of behaviour modification, even with long-time elected officials who go against the policy of the lobby. My experience with Tom Harkin (a Democrat from Iowa), is a case in point.

In the late 1970s, then-Congressman Tom Harkin was a leading human rights advocate in the House of Representatives. This stance led him to support Palestinian rights as well. In 1980, for example, when two Palestinian mayors were expelled from the occupied West Bank, Harkin endorsed the defence campaign on behalf of the mayors.

Mr. Harkin's voting record in this period also reflected his balanced perspective in Middle East issues. Regularly voting against foreign aid bills in 1977, he supported two efforts to cut aid to all foreign aid recipients (including Israel) by 5 per cent. In 1978-84, Harkin opposed a bill that would have provided \$25 million to resettle Soviet Jews in Israel and prevented U.S. involvement in two United Nations committees working on Palestinian rights.

But in 1980, Mr. Harkin changed course dramatically. Shortly after endorsing the two expelled Palestinian mayors, Harkin was visited by AIPAC and, according to a staff member, left the meeting shaken and feeling threatened. Apparently he got the message, and thereafter Mr. Harkin's record was dramatically different.

From 1980 through 1984, he consistently voted for pro-Israel bills and signed most pro-Israel letters circulating in Capitol Hill. He became so strong in his support of Israel that, in his 1984 Senate bid, he received significant contributions from pro-Israel PACs which had targeted incumbent Senator Roger W. Jepsen for his vote to send AWACs to Saudi Arabia. In 1990, Mr. Harkin ran for reelection and received an additional \$246,000 from pro-Israel PACs.

Mr. Harkin's opponent that year, Representative Tom Tanke, was approached by AIPAC early in the campaign.

Mr. Tanke was, like so many other candidates, urged to issue a statement in support of Israel. He was told that, of course, he would not receive pro-Israel support, since Mr. Harkin was the pro-Israel candidate — but if he agreed to refrain from criticising Israel, he would be helped after the election if he won. In the end, Mr. Harkin had been "threatened" and "rewarded" and Mr. Tanke had been "bribe-ridden."

Nevertheless, the 1990 election was quite close and could have ended differently. Mr. Tanke's campaign staff felt, had their candidate exposed AIPAC's practices and the extent to which Mr. Harkin had been influenced by pro-Israel PACs.

h) After years of placing interns in congressional offices and of cultivating friends in Congress (by working on their campaigns, contributing to their elections, winning their friendship through years of cooperative efforts), AIPAC has been able to place hundreds of former interns, former staff and friends and supporters into key positions in many congressional offices.

Since in many congressional offices staff do most of the congressman's work, the power of the staff is quite considerable. They write the congressman's letters to constituents, draft their speeches and positions papers, and they even sign the person's name to congressional letters and as co-sponsors to legislation. In many instances, staff will deter-

mine who will or will not receive appointments with the member of Congress.

There have been many occasions where members of Congress I know will be unaware that they have co-sponsored a piece of legislation (to which their names were added by staffers) but once informed only the brave will remove their names.

Again, utilizing its own extensive activist membership and the networks provided by the other mainstream Jewish organisations, AIPAC can deliver thousands of letters to a member of Congress — from his own constituents — either protesting an "anti-Israel" vote or praising a "pro-Israel" vote.

While letters and petitions in themselves mean little (the side that sends the most letters doesn't automatically win the congressman's support), they are a reminder to the congressman of the potential support or opposition he can expect at election time.

d) Another effective mechanism used by AIPAC and other Jewish groups to win congressional support has been the regular trips to Israel they sponsor for most members of Congress, and even other local elected officials (who are viewed as potential congressional candidates in the future). For example, a survey of trips made by members of Congress during the 1991 break showed that Israel was the number one travel destination, with 30 members of Congress stopping

there — which was more than the total visits to all the Arab countries combined during the same period.

As with the letter writing, the trips in and of themselves have more of a symbolic than an actual value. The visits do not educate, since they are one-sided presentations. A real fact-finding visit would, of course, include travelling throughout the Middle East. The purposes of the trips, in actuality, are to inform the members of Congress what they are expected to say about issues involving Israel.

Just as all the statements signed by members of Congress in their election campaigns sound the same (because they are), so do the comments they make when they return from Israel all sound the same — because they have learned on their visit what to say and how to say it.

Most members of Congress are not convinced to behave in a certain way by the letters, by the trips to Israel or by the pressures on them to conform. They are convinced by the fear of being defeated. And the letters and the other forms of pressure represent symbols of the money and 'power' that creates fear."

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an issue and establishing their view as the "accepted" conventional wisdom.

Arab Americans, overpowered by such a barrage of information, must then fight an up-hill battle in the media to make any case. In other words, even before we can begin to do our actual work, AIPAC has put us on the defensive. They have used this technique to define the PLO as "terrorist" to define each and every Israeli attack as a "retaliation," to call loan guarantees, "humanitarian aid," to tar their enemies as "anti-Semites," and so on and so forth.

f) AIPAC also has an aggressive information-gathering operation by which it and related Jewish organisations are able to know what members of Congress say at any public gathering and what perceived enemies of Israel also say. This apparatus is so sophisticated as to resemble a quasi-governmental intelligence agency in that it covers not only print and other media outlets, but also involves sending spies to offices, meetings and events to record what transpires, and even who simply attends.

While AIPAC claims that it gathers such data legally and only for its own use, in fact it is what it does with this information that makes it so potent a force in their arsenal and such an integral part of their strategy.

AIPAC's so-called "research" department has become a major source of information on members of Congress and on "enemies of Israel." It publishes a confidential monthly report which it sends to Jewish groups and leaders and wealthy donors and a number of friendly writers. Then, over the next few weeks, articles and columns will include the AIPAC "line" on issues of the day as well as details on what various public officials have said and/or done.

It is through these reports that AIPAC is able to shape attitudes and behaviour among its supporters. The reports are not always truthful, however.

I have learned from a reporter who regularly covers the lobby, that AIPAC's research department has an entire drawer devoted to me as an "enemy." I apparently have the distinction of being second to Jesse Jackson in the number of files kept by the lobby.

I can speak first-hand of the political use which AIPAC makes of its "information gathering." For example, in 1986 I made contributions to a number of congressional campaigns. After the elections a few of the congressional offices contacted me to inform me that they had been called by supporters of Israel who noticed on Federal Elections Commission records that they had received contributions from me. The supporters of Israel had wanted the congressional offices to know who I was and what I stood for. Implicit in these conversations was the message that it would be wise for these members of Congress not to accept my support. To the credit of those whom I and many other Arab Americans have supported in recent years, none have rejected my support.

But the threat is there, and it can be intimidating to some members of Congress. One might think after all this that the lobby was invincible. But as it reached the peak of its power, cracks in AIPAC's armour began to appear. And after some review it seems that AIPAC's successes may be leading it into some deep internal difficulties.

LETTERS

Animals need help, too

To the Editor:

I READ with interest the letters of Aug. 29, concerning the dumped horse. One cannot help wondering who could have committed such an act of cruelty, and why?

This case highlights the importance for more public awareness, on all levels, towards our treatment of animals, whether we have them or not.

Though fully aware of some citizens' plight of misery and poverty, I am also aware that officials are doing their best to deal with it. That does not prevent the creation of a system that can act promptly to end the suffering of injured animals. Though humans must have the priority at all times, help could be extended to all forms of life when necessity arises.

Lilia Sakhoon,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Wife-beating common, divorce rising in Syria

By Issam Hama
Reuters

DAMASCUS — Wife-beating is the most common way for Syrian men to settle quarrels at home.

Girls in rural areas often marry as young as 11, boys as young as 15.

Divorce is on the rise, especially for men who have fought their way up the economic ladder.

And college graduates in Syrian cities seem as likely to beat their wives as rural peasants.

These insights into family life and social change in Syria come from research by sociologist Amal Abdul Rahim, who has been studying divorce cases handled by the Islamic Sharia Courts in the capital, Damascus, and the nearby countryside.

"The statistics show that beating is still the most widely used way to settle marriage disputes," she says.

"We find that men are treating women as their personal property, and feel they can deal with their wives

they wish without any restraint."

That picture of married life is familiar to Syrian television audiences, whose favourite soap operas include *Ajneh* (wings), starring actress Sana Al-Masri.

Her marriage — an exchange between rural families in which her brother also wed her husband's sister — is constantly disturbed by in-law troubles, and the series frequently shows husbands beating wives and treating them as chattels.

Also true to life, Dr. Abdul Rahim found, is the series *Awrak Enara* (A Woman's Diary) in which a doctor leaves his modern, educated ways behind him at the hospital and behaves at home like an old-fashioned tyrant. The heroine, determined to pursue her own education, divorces him.

Divorce cases among men with higher education often involve wife-beating, the sociologist says. "In spite of their education the men act primitively and use their traditional rights in settling dis-

putes."

Syria's near-stagnant economy is a big influence on family life, with divorce more common among the poorest and the richest families than among those with middle incomes.

The government is slowly undoing the Soviet-style centralisation of the 1960s but is hampered by poor relations with the West, which deny it aid and foreign investment, while it struggles to keep pace with a population that has doubled in 20 years to nearly 15 million.

In the cities, where a recent graduate might earn \$100 a month, rising prices are a barrier to marriage.

Many young city-dwellers must postpone taking a wife unless they get strong financial help from parents or take on crippling debts to set up a home and make payments expected by in-laws.

Islamic custom allows Syrian men four wives. But many choose monogamy and even among those who would wish a second wife, few can afford it, especially in the

cities.

In the countryside, Dr. Abdul Rahim found, couples marry young with the encouragement of their parents in spite of laws which set the minimum age at 17 for girls and 18 for boys.

"Marriage at a young age brings more children, strengthening the family, and also forms a bond with another family," says Dr. Abdul Rahim. "The woman is expected to serve."

"Life in the village is more simple. Family members share the same house. The wife works on the farm to help her husband earn his living."

It also "provides legal sexual life for the young couple," Dr. Abdul Rahim adds, meaning that some marriages take place because the girl has lost her virginity and her parents have little hope of finding her any other husband.

But these early marriages, usually among people with little education, often fail, says Dr. Abdul Rahim, who took her doctorate at the

University of Damascus.

Her recently published study concluded that marriage below the legal age was a major factor in 71 per cent of divorces in the countryside.

Arranged marriage, another common theme in Syrian TV dramas, also contributes to the divorce rate. Custom in some regions dictates that a woman cannot be married outside the family unless eligible kinsmen step aside.

"This makes marriage a matter of chance, which might be a success or a total failure," Dr. Abdul Rahim says.

Disputes with in-laws often figure in divorce cases. Sexual incompatibility is rarely mentioned, although Dr. Abdul Rahim suspects it is more common than her figures show.

"People who divorce for this reason may be too embarrassed to speak about their sex lives, which are seen as a sacred secret in Syrian society, and generally throughout the Arab

World," she says.

And divorce rates are rising in both city and countryside.

Figures from the Sharia Courts, which follow Islamic custom but are presided over by a member of the state judicial system, showed 22 divorces per 100 marriages in the same jurisdiction in 1988 to 1990, compared with 18 divorces in the three years before.

"This high divorce figure constitutes a big social problem and requires collective efforts to limit it," Dr. Abdul Rahim said.

She recommends stricter enforcement of age limits, better education and government efforts to make low-cost housing available to young couples.

Illustrating the strains of social mobility, Dr. Abdul Rahim identified a group especially prone to divorce — businessmen who overcome the disadvantages of poor education.

"When income rises and education is low, more divorces take place," she says.

Diary

M. KAHIL



ARRIVING UNANNOUNCED: Chairman Yasser Arafat has a notorious fetish for security, which is understandable given the real threats he faces from his enemies. But obsession with personal safety does, as can well be expected, interfere with protocol and issues of state. Before arriving in Amman this past week, Arafat caused the government a bit of a headache with his sense of timing. The story, as retold by usually well-informed sources, goes something like this. The PLO chairman was supposed to come to Amman to see His Majesty the King over the widely reported lack of consultations over the Gaza-Jericho first plan. As he was preparing to leave Tunis for here, a Palestinian delegation was visiting with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and were apparently treated to a few comments about the lack of Palestinian-Jordanian coordination. Seeking to cool the atmosphere, one of the Palestinian visitors responded that he was sure that this problem will be resolved when "Abu Ammar arrives this afternoon." What they did not know was that the government was not informed of Abu Ammar's impending arrival and that was the first that the prime minister had heard of his visit plan. After the meeting had ended, another member of the Palestinian visiting group called the Palestinian ambassador in Amman and asked him why the Jordanian government was not informed that Abu Ammar was on his way to Jordan. "We were shocked to find out that Tayeb Abdul Rahim did not know either," the visitor said. It was not until a couple of hours before he arrived that Arafat's plans became known to his bewildered hosts who nevertheless graciously arrived at the airport to greet him. Lack of coordination all the way, you might say.

FREE NEWSPAPER SERVICE: Every single candidate for the Nov. 8 parliamentary elections must be conjuring up ingenious ways to win over the press in preparation for his or her campaign. That is every single candidate except one. The exceptional candidate, whose name is Mr. Isa Rimoni, does not need to curry favour with the Jordanian press because he owns his weekly newspaper, *Akhbar Al Usbua*, which regularly dedicates some of its pages to his campaign. Members of Rimoni's constituency, the citizens of Jerash, are treated every week to achievements and accomplishments of the former honourable deputy. While not underestimating the need to address his area's problems, *Akhbar Al Usbua*'s coverage last week went as it could in analysing the standing of all candidates in Jerash. "While it is still early to judge who the strong candidates for the Jerash race are, there is a strange phenomena involving one particular candidate," the newspaper said. "Friends and foes alike agree that he is the strongest candidate because of the services he rendered to his large family. This candidate's name is on the lips of everybody there." The magical "Rimoni" name was never once mentioned in the lengthy treatise on Jerash. But very few failed to guess it right, of course.

Nermeen Mural

THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

The life of every man is a diary in which he means to write one story, and writes another; and his humblest hour is when he compares the volume as it is with what he hoped to make it

— Sir James Matthew Barrie, Scottish dramatist-author (1860-1937).

Happiness, it seems to me, consists of two things: First, in being where you belong, and second — and best — in comfortably going through everyday life, that is, having had a good night's sleep and not being hurt by new shoes

— Theodor Fontane, German author (1819-1898).

Men make counterfeit money; in many more cases, money makes counterfeit men

— Sydney J. Harris, American journalist (1917-1986).

Wisdom is born, stupidity is learned

— Russian proverb.

The old forget. The young don't know

— Japanese proverb.

There are two ways of spreading light: To be the candle, or the mirror that reflects it

— Edith Wharton, American author (1862-1937).

Don't compromise yourself. You are all you've got —

Janis Joplin, American rock singer (1943-1970).

U.S. health craze fizzles, fat makes a comeback

By Sebastian Smith
Agence France Presse

WASHINGTON — The U.S. health craze is fizzling and fat is back, experts say.

Television's daily parade of sculpted bodies pitting fitness gear, might suggest otherwise, but most Americans are sedentary and new breeds of monsterburgers and sumptuous ice creams have no trouble finding buyers.

"It would seem that the health craze peaked and is again waning," said Debbie Reed, a nutritionist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture,

which monitors what U.S. consumers eat.

Thirty-one per cent of men and 35 per cent of women were overweight between 1988 and 1991, up from 24 and 27 per cent between 1976 and 1980, the latest National Centre for Health Statistics Survey shows.

A Louis Harris and Associates report this year found 66 per cent of those questioned said they were overweight in 1992, up from 59 per cent in 1983.

Ms. Reed said the latest survey shows Americans guzzled more soft drinks and snack foods in 1990 than a

decade ago.

Although people are drinking more low-fat milk and are continuing to shift from red to white meat, fruit and vegetable consumption has dropped slightly in the last 10 years, she said.

And in supermarket freezers low-fat frozen yoghurt is facing up to such heavyweights as Haagen-Dazs' caramel cone explosion and Ben and Jerry's New York super fudge chunk ice cream, both of which carry approximately 15-18 per cent butterfat.

Haagen-Dazs said its new Extraa products have

boosted company market share by more than a third in under a year, according to the Washington Post.

Disappointed by sales of its health-conscious, 1991 McLean Deluxe, McDonalds has lumbered into Washington area outlets with the Mega Mac, a beef behemoth stacking up 224-grammes (eight-ounces) of hamburger, three bread slices, tomatoes and sauce.

Dominos' Pizza is topping the scales with a hulking 76-centimetre long (30-inch) pizza called the Dominator.

And in an age when President Bill Clinton jogs to

McDonalds and corpulent actress Roseanne Arnold is a television superstar, attitudes towards fat are relaxing, other surveys show.

A survey by NPD Group researchers showed that this year just 35 per cent of respondents thought fat people unattractive, compared to 55 per cent in 1985.

Television is filled with bodybuilders and leotard-clad women hawking the latest gadget aimed at building pecs, flattening abdomens or creating "huns of steel," as one promotion put it.

But only 22 per cent of Americans did sufficient ex-

ercise in 1991, said the government-run Centres for Disease Control and Prevention in its latest survey.

Almost 60 per cent of those over 18 years old were sedentary, the study said.

"There is a misimpression in America, that in the fitness fad of the last three or four years, more Americans are engaged in physical activity," the co-chairman of the president's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports told the New York Times.

"That is not true. About 250,000 deaths each year are attributed to inactivity," he said.

Countering the hysteria

The Islamic Threat: Myth Or Reality
By John L. Esposito
Oxford University Press, England 1993, £19.95

The excellence of this book — it is by far the best work on Islamic "fundamentalism" — is to be found chiefly in its analysis of the relations of "fundamentalism" and the West. But the preceding chapters, on the antecedents of the Muslim revivalist movement, are a necessary preparation.

The historic summary has, perhaps, one major defect: That Esposito does not specifically identify the creation of Islam as the major factor in the growth of militant Islam. He is only prepared to go as far as saying that the existence of Islam, and its victory in the 1967 war, "was a major catalyst for Islamic resurgence," when in fact without it there would probably not have been any Islamic resurgence.

But when he gets down to analysing the nature of Islamic "revivalism" — "activism," terms which he prefers to "fundamentalism" — he has a whole series of important points to make. Thus, there is no such thing as a single, monolithic militant Islam because activism can be found in a variety of forms in a variety of states, from theocracy of Iran to its military dictatorship of Sudan to the monarchy of Saudi Arabia. And for these countries their national interest, not Islam, is overriding, which is why they are often on bad terms with each other. They vary even in their relations with the U.S.: Egypt, the Pakistan of Zia-ul-Haq, and Saudi Arabia have had friendly relations while those of Libya and Iran are distinctly inimical. Further, revivalism is most forceful in the most modernised Muslim states: Egypt and Iran, Libya and Tunisia and, he might have added, Pakistan. And this is so because Islamic activism has become a part of the mainstream of life in Muslim countries. This shift away from the periphery towards the centre, he claims, began in 1960 and was completed over the next two decades.

Esposito repeatedly stresses that revivalist Islamic movements are not regressive and backward-looking and are not against modernisation, from which they borrow ideas on organisation and social welfare, as well as techniques of propaganda. Though he equally stresses that the programmes of these movements are not as yet specific enough to reform a modern state. Which is why the best way to handle such movements is not by armed repression but by letting them come to power, through the ballot box, when their lack of experience and competence would be revealed. This is similar to what Jordan has done, exceptionally, because none of the Muslim states "seems willing to provide this with the opportunity to discredit themselves." For which he is severely critical of the regimes in Algeria and Tunisia, because they cut short that "opportunity."

Esposito's answer to the question in the subtitle is that it is both mythical reality, depending on the point of view. Because, though Islam is seen as a real threat to those who

BOOK REVIEW

want to misinterpret it as a threat — the Israelis and their Western friends — Muslims do not see their faith as a threat: Despite everything, they do not want to threaten the Christian West or anyone else. In any case history shows that Islam has been far more threatened by Christendom than the other way round. What Muslims do see themselves as is a challenge.

Esposito is particularly pungent in his analysis of the means and motives of the misinterpreters of Islam and he does truth a service by naming names, with Dr. Bernard Lewis at the head of the list. Such academics and publicists have an easy run in the West because they can depend on certain stereotypes embedded in the Western mind. One of the most basic of these is the concept that "religion" is essentially a matter of personal salvation rather than a way of life within a society although, he claims, "the Western notion of the separation of church and state is relatively new."

Such criticisms, even though they are correct, would hardly endear him to his academic colleagues, but Esposito's book puts any Westerner dealing with Muslims, not least the diplomats, enormously in his debt. The book, of course, is extremely topical: It would seem to have been written specially to counter recent statements by the president of Israel, Chaim Herzog, and the president of Egypt, Hosni Mubarak, that the bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York was not an "isolated act of terrorism" but part of a pan-Islamic global conspiracy against the West which it, along with Israel, must fight as it fought the "Communist threat." Countering this hysteria, Esposito's main message to his Western readers is: "Keep calm, don't panic, Islam is not coming to get you" — Middle East International.

G.H. Jansen

Modernity triumphant

Cultural Schizophrenia: Islamic Societies Confronting The West
By Daryush Shayegan
Saqi Books, London 1992, £25

The "schizophrenia" in the title refers to the cultural and psychological splits and distortions which result from the imperfect superimposition, the graft, of Western-produced modernity onto the metaphysical edifices of Asian civilisations. During the centuries of the great transformations into modernity in the West, these civilisations were "on holiday from history." The focus of the argument is on the Middle East, and particularly on Iran. In the opening chapter, the author invites us to consider the plight of a hypothetical individual caught in this split world. On the one side the pull of a mythologised, magical, a historical

universe of prophets, mystics and poets, one requiring respect for tradition, passivity and contemplation; on the other, the reality and discourse of modernity of technique and ideology. This modernity, however, is never fully assimilated. This hypothetical individual and his society have not lived through the transformations into modernity and have no access to its motive force. They are merely consumers of its cultural by-products. As a result, the individual is "racked between new ideas which evaporate for lack of a context and ancient ideas which wither for the failure to adapt," and to cope with this failure to understand, he invents scapegoats to blame, "living becomes a way of life, of apprehending a reality which evades me."

The book sparkles with interesting ideas, drawing on a wide range of European philosophy. These ideas, however, do not always culminate in tight arguments. We are told, for instance, that the distorted world resulting from the graft of modernity onto the old paradigm has "a post-Hegelian philosophic infrastructure and a pre-Galilean content." This interesting combination ultimately refers to Islamic ideas in modern ideological forms. But the content does not, surely, transfer inertly to its new forms. As Shayegan demonstrates in many places, the construction of Islam as political ideology involves radical transformations in the ideas so constructed. Khomeini did not merely draw on traditional Islamic ideas, he transformed them radically. The fact of the matter is that modernity is triumphant, as Shayegan recognises. The "pre-Galilean" content is the hand-maiden of the "post-Hegelian" ideology, supplying it with images and symbols to be transformed in accordance with its modern logic.

The problems identified in this book are very real: the ideologisation of culture, the formation of closed, exclusive worlds intolerant of otherness, the Manichean divisions into absolute good and evil with the conspiracies and scapegoats which follow. And these characteristics apply equally to religious and secular ideologies. A recurrent, and very important, theme in the book is the unacknowledged penetration of crude Marxist motifs into Islamic ideologies, especially in Iran. Yet, are these phenomena explicable in terms of traditional hang-ups from a past world of myth and symbol? Or is it not more relevant to cite the current blockages and distortions emanating from repressive states and underdeveloped institutions? There is very little politics in this book, which is perhaps refreshing, but nevertheless limiting.

The most serious reservation I have is that it exaggerates the contrast between Middle Eastern and Western societies. The picture of the one-dimensional, ideological intellectuals drawn here, though seldom illustrated with actual examples, is readily recognisable. But can the flourishing intellectual milieu of, say, Beirut in the 1970s, or Egypt at various points, be reduced to these types? And are these types not to be found in plenty of the universities and political associations of the West?

The intellectual in Islamic societies, according to Shayegan, "is not a coherent being but is made upon splintered fragments of desire, scattered packages of awareness, crumbs of contradictory wishes pulling this way and that." Some would say this sums up the modern, or rather post-modern, condition everywhere! — Middle East International.

Sami Zubaida

Crazy dreams

By Jean-Claude Elias

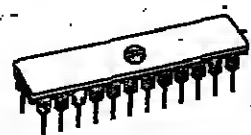
If we take the time to sit and dream about future computers, how far could we go? Without crossing the thin and elusive border between reality and science fiction, what would we allow our imagination to think of when it comes to the next generation of computers? How powerful, small would they be, and what would they enable us to do?

Computers have become multi-purpose machines. A NASA scientist obviously has needs that are basically different from a lay person using a personal computer (PC) at home. The space specialist would dream of a faster, more reliable system, ensuring he doesn't lose the megadollars probe sent to explore the limits of the solar system. In a more prosaic manner, the home user would be eternally grateful to his PC if it could just iron his shirts!

Curiously, non-professionals do not realise how difficult a task it is for a computer (or rather a robot in this case) to do ironing. The infinite variety in shirts models, sizes, shapes, fabrics, pockets, buttons, etc., all make the operation very difficult to analyse in a scientific way. Just like doctors have mastered the art of open heart, triple bypass surgery, but still cannot cure a simple cold, Information Technology (IT) experts have solved extremely complex problems, leaving some other apparently simpler ones out.

Rather than dreaming of faster, smaller computers, the next generation of PC users certainly wish to see computers perform down-to-earth yet very useful tasks. Robotics will definitely be an important part of the PC's future.

chip talk



Putting aside ironing and curing colds, where is the limit of what we can think of? If we follow the IT evolution in the past twenty five years and extrapolate for the next similar period, the limit seems to be only the stars above. In other words, there is no way we can give even a reasonable forecast of what we can expect to see. The specialists themselves could not foretell what is happening today in IT, how could they do it for the future? Reasonable predictions don't seem to extend beyond five-year periods.

Religious and philosophical considerations however would make people put theoretical boundaries to computer evolution even for the year 5,000. The machine will never be able to think or feel like humans, nor take initiative or show artistic creativity. Being man-made, it could never overpower man himself. While such respectable justifications make perfect sense and are fully acceptable, the only scientific attitude when it comes to the future of computers and IT is "wait and see."

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammed A. Shugair

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

★ In 1845, founders of Boston City stipulated that citizens wishing to have a bath should get a "prescription" from doctors allowing them to do that.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ In 1881, a horse in Tennessee was convicted to be burnt alive on the pretext that it had practised magic. That kind of judgement was actually put into practice so as to expurgate the animal's body from the devil which was believed to hold a place in its heart.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ In Hamburg, a German native wore a 1,000-metre bride's head-veil, carried by 650 children.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ An American soldier lost his own cup of coffee during World War II in Italy and could accidentally restore it when he visited the country as a tourist after 40 years. The soldier's name was engraved on the cup!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ The Cobra's "venom" can kill an elephant.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

LET'S LEARN ARABIC

The weather

- How hot it is! Ya lahu min taks haar!
- I'm perspiring very much. Ana aarak katiran.
- What season do you like best? Ma haya el fassool allati tohibbaha?
- What a lovely spring we have had! Ya lahu min rab! Jameel!
- I don't like winter at all. La olubbo al shitta ilakan.
- As for me, I prefer summer to winter. Bismilla le, ofaddeh es-saff anish shitan.
- In summer, the days are pleasant. El ayyam jameela fis saff.
- In the evening you may enjoy nice walks. Fil massaa mouneen tistam! Bismilla jameela.
- What does the forecast say this morning? Mazza takool al nasra al-jawwiya haza al-sabah?
- There is no substantial change in temperature today. La yoojad tagayyur mahsoos fee darajat el harrara haza al-yom.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

Colour blindness

- An incurable defect of vision that reduces the ability to discriminate one colour from another.
- Is either congenital or acquired.
- Absence of one or more pigments, which are most sensitive to red, green or blue light, results in colour blindness.
- A sex-linked characteristic, about 20 times more common in males. Statistics show that from 2 to 6 per cent of males suffer from the defect.
- Women cannot suffer from the defect unless both parents have the same defect.
- TYPES: Red blindness affects the ability to discriminate red and green; blue blindness affects blue and yellow; green blindness affects the green range of the spectrum.
- Cause of congenital colour blindness is not known, although it probably arises from some defect in the retinal receptors.
- Toxic conditions caused by excessive smoking, lead poisoning, etc., can lead to colour blindness.

TIME FOR FUN

★ The tall gentleman in the dress suit was down on his hands and knees beneath the lamp post, apparently looking for something. He mumbled and shook his head

despairingly. A policeman patrolling his beat strolled by and inquired, "Lose something, chum?"

"Yeah," hiccupped the man, "I losht a watch."

The policeman bent over and helped look for it. After about ten minutes the policeman said, "Are you sure you lost it here?"

"I didn't lose it here," said the man, "I dropped it two blocks down the avenue."

The policeman straightened up precipitously. "Then why in heaven's name are you looking for it here?" he demanded.

"The light ain't so good down there," the man explained.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ The optometrist adjusted the patient's new eyeglasses carefully and said with a note of satisfaction, "There, now you'll be able to read without straining your eyes."

The man looked a little doubtful.

"You mean I'll be able to read without going to school?" he asked.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

GALLOWS: Most sources agree that this is a dream of contrary and will be followed by a period of general good luck, as in the hanging rhyme;

To see someone hanged, or to be hung yourself, Is absolute promise of increase in pelf, And however uncomfortable may be the sensation, One cannot have doubt of a just elevation.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

DEATH: If you dreamed of being dead yourself, it indicates an approaching release from all your worries and/or a recovery from illness. If you spoke with someone who is dead, you will soon hear very good news. To dream of a death frequently signifies news of a birth. To be aware of a dead person you cannot identify portends an inheritance which may not be personal but could be indirectly beneficial.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

PUZZLES

(I) Can you name the animals from their descriptions? a - a camel-like animal with a sheep-like head and a revolting habit of spitting. b - Stupid and tailless, the original of a favourite toy. Its feet are adapted for climbing and it has a woolly coat.

(II) LINE UP: Rearrange the letters in each row to form a word so that the three columns (Indicated by arrows) also form words.

↓	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
A	I	R	F	U	E	L	
M	A	R	I	N	E	S	
P	E	S	T	I	E	T	
P	E	N	S	E	X	E	
M	A	R	O	D	O	N	
C	A	N	I	C	O	E	
E	A	L	E	K	I	N	

I'll be there for your wedding

By E. Yaghi

A relative of ours got married last Friday so my spouse and I rode in the wedding procession to the bride's house where we picked up the bride and escorted her to the wedding car, and then off we all went to the groom's house where the ceremony was held. It turned out to be a festive occasion where buses loaded with singing and clapping celebrants busied the streets of Amman.

People put on their best clothes and spirits and for a while, forgot their troubles and cares. The mother of the bride rode in the car beside the honoured guest, her daughter, and beamed smiles of happiness that she was able to wed her child at 16 because she still had a list of unwed females at home who needed to be married.

My own spirits were somewhat uplifted by the colourful clothes that everyone wore as well as the contagious joyous feelings. A few cars ahead of us, a photographer filmed the entire proceedings and kept his camera on the wedding car until the procession completed its journey. At the end of the trip, the car I rode in pulled up to a small house that had witnessed many weddings. Some people escorted the bride out of the car and up the winding stairs to the roof where the women positioned themselves as close as they possibly could to the bridal seat. As soon as she arrived, the recorder blared its loudest and females of all ages began to clap, sing and dance. The photographer made himself available and didn't seem to miss any footage in capturing the events as they occurred.

The bride sat down on her regal chair and after a short time, the bridegroom arrived, encircled by dancing and clapping enthusiasts. While the groom seated himself next to his bride, I imagined a wedding that was to take place on the same day many miles across a distant sea in my former land. Yes, my son decided to wed an American girl and I would not be there to help celebrate his wedding. A few days ago, he had called by phone and informed us of, "I decided to get married on Friday."

Stunned, I replied, "but, this is such short notice! Are you sure this is what you want? And how about your studies?"

His voice seemed strange and so far away when he answered: "Don't worry! I am going to finish, God willing, and my bride says that she wants to work to help me. She is also morally supporting me and told me that if she has a

dollar, she will tear it in two and give me half!"

Well, I guess that my son and his wife-to-be had everything more or less figured out and that anything I said would be either of little use or ignored completely. It was simply too late to stop the wedding or change his mind, not that either could have been accomplished anyway. And so there I was after my son said good-bye, left with a dangling phone in my hand and a forlorn feeling in my heart. How many times had I insisted to my sons in "Never marry a foreigner! Marry a girl from your own country who will be used to the same things you are and who will live here as you do. A foreigner may not want to accept your way of life or even like it here or be willing to come here in the first place!"

But by now I have discovered that children usually do exactly the opposite of what they are told. Somewhere along the line I should have tried reverse psychology, but that too probably would have backfired. Next day after my son's startling news, my daughter who lives in the same city, called.

"What do you think? Is there any hope of canceling this marriage?" I asked in a pleading voice.

"Not really," he answered. "It's a little too late for that, but don't worry! Think my brother will be happy! There is going to be a small ceremony in the local mosque and afterwards, I invited them to my house for dinner. By Monday, you know, they both have to be back at the university for the beginning of the fall semester."

"Oh," I said, my voice weak and small. "But why so soon, so suddenly?"

"This relationship has been going on and off for a while. I tried to talk my brother out of it but it was no use. I even broke down and cried and he told me that this is his life and that this is what he wants."

So, that was it. Too late to do anything about the wedding, too late to even grieve it. The best I could do would be to pray for his happiness and be with him in spirit.

In the hot crowded room, the singing and dancing continued. I tried to forget my own son's wedding and focus on the one in front of me. There the bride and groom sat just as my own son and his bride would celebrate their own wedding. Although you surprised me by your announcement my son, I have determined to be with you on your wedding and I will sing and clap for you if only in my dreams!

JTV CHANNEL 2

WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Sept. 2

8:30 Too Close For Comfort

Huey

Henry is having a hard time with his father who keeps getting fired from every old people's home he is put in.

9:10 H.E.L.P.

To Everything There Is A Season

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

American Dreamer

Starring: JoBeth Williams — Michael Kaplan

Kathy and Kevin are living together. Kathy wins a story writing award and a trip to Paris, France. Kevin refuses to go with her so she travels alone.

Friday, Sept. 3

8:30 Head Of The Class

You've Got A Friend

Sarah and Arvid are chosen for the National Science Prize in Washington for their joint project.

9:10 Reasonable Doubts

The Discomfort Zone

Detective Dicky is in trouble. He is accused of badly beating a Hispanic man during a fight.

10:00 News In English

10:20 The One Game

Nicolas finds out that his ex-wife Jenny is still in love with him and tries to help her leave Magnus and return to him.

Saturday, Sept. 4

8:30 It's A Wacky World

9:00

9:30 Varieties

10:00 News In English



Head Of The Class Friday at 8:30

10:20 Feature Film — "The Last Hit"
Starring: Bryan Brown and Brooke Adams

Sunday, Sept. 5

8:30 Step By Step

Carol opens a beauty parlour and asks her husband to assist her.

9:10 Documentary — The Dream Machine

The Paper Back Computer

This episode talks about how the advent of the PC changed the face of the universe since 1984.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Mini-Series — The Outsider

A Death In The Family

Starring: John Duttine and Carol Royle

After the death of John Dooly, the owner of a weekly

Tuesday, Sept. 7

8:30 People Next Door

Harvie, Walter's wife, gets angry when she finds out that Walter has rented their apartment in New York to a dancer.

9:00 Aces And Places

9:30 Documentary — Voyager

Walled City Of Kowloon

This episode talks about the city of Kowloon in the heart of Hong Kong and how it is an isolated city from the entire world.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Gnat Performance

Fred Astaire's Song Book

In this outstanding retrospective, we follow Fred Astaire through decade of new films, his television debut, and many new partners including Ra Hayworth, Betty Hutton, Lili Caron, Audrey Hepburn and his television partner Ernie Chase.

Wednesday, Sept. 8

8:30 Night Court

Halloween II, Returning Of Leon

Judge Stone is worried about the little bit Leon who runs away but then returns.

9:10 Documentary — Notre Siecle

Les Amées Jazz

This episode talks about how life in Europe and the U.S. has completely changed following World War I.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Abandon

The Dar Woman

The Ashenden stories, about the agent whose adventures World War I assignments took him through Europe and into the Russian Revolution itself. In this first episode Ashenden is recruited into the Secret Service and finds himself in a cat-and-mouse game involving forgery and escape attempts.

Zola's Germinal goes on cinema screens soon

Germinal, a superproduction by Claude Berri, is due to be out by the end of summer 1993. It promises to be the cinema event of the year, in France.

PARIS — Rebellion rumbles in the land of the miners, with revolutionary songs, red flags, axes and raised fists. The producer and director, Claude Berri, made *Germinal* in the very place where Zola had located the action of his novel.

It is a colossal film, with six months of shooting, a brilliant cast, thousands of extras and the biggest budget in the whole history of French cinema — 160 million francs.

After *The Old Man and the Child* and after Jean de Florette, why *Germinal*? "Because the first time I read this book about the life of miners last century, I was deeply moved," Berri replies. "I thought of my father, a furrier-worker in Paris, who so much resembled the men in the mine who were revolted by their inhuman and unjust condition".

In addition to the miners,

like Emile Zola, Claude Berri wants to dedicate this work to all the oppressed people on earth. The director intends to stick as close as possible to the naturalist writer's work, for whom the mine was the Minotaur, a monster daily devouring its ration of human flesh, deep in its maze.

The action takes place around 1860. The young worker, Etienne Lantier, who was fired from his workshop because of his "social ideas", went to work in a mine in order to survive.

A strike breaks out. Etienne leads the movement. He arouses his companions to whom he announces the dawning of "a spring for the world of workers". The miners and their wives go mad. They smash everything and kill. The troops are called in to reestablish order and they fire into the crowd, causing

deaths. The revolt is put down. The strike fails. But defeat is only apparent, for "a black, vengeful arm was slowly germinating in the furrows, and growing for the harvest of the future century, whose germination would shortly burst through the earth".

The producer and director, Claude Berri, had one of those country pits, of the pre-industrial era, which opened up in the middle of fields, right onto the veins of coal, built in the heart of the Valenciennes region, 300 kilometres north of Paris. It is the mine of Voreux, described in the book.

International stature Today, these primitive installations have disappeared beneath the grass. So archives had to be consulted in order to reconstruct the Voreux mine and its installations as faithfully as possible.

The result is striking. Beneath a soot-black sky, which sets the tone for the film, the shape of the pit-head stands out, containing the cage in which bunches of humans pile in on their way to the bottom.

There is the huge chimney of the steam boiler which provides the necessary power, spewing forth its dark swirls of smoke, the stalls for the horses which pull the wagons, the "sorters" slaving on the surface, in their clogs in the blackish mud, while, 600 metres below their feet, their men and their sons, rip out blocks of coal from the vein.

The extras on the set of *Germinal* (and there is a thousand of them in certain scenes) are all locals from the black country. Many of them, who are retired today, spent many years "down below". They, and their fathers and grandfathers before them, experienced fatal roof-falls, fire-damp and silicosis which eats away at the lungs.

To play the part of the hero, Etienne Lantier, the director decided to take a risk by giving the part to the singer Renaud, whose anarchical songs have had a lot of success and who has never acted in cinema before. "Berri had been on at me for years to accept the part", Renaud relates. "He kept telling me that nobody else would do

and that, without me, he would never make the film that he had been dreaming of for so long. Each time I would brush him off. I finally tired of fighting and gave in".

The result is that those who were present on the set during filming agree that the singer is a marvel in the rags of a miner. With his pick-axe in his fist and rage on his lips in the riot, he has completely identified with the character created by Zola: "A good-looking boy with very dark hair and strong-looking despite his tiny limbs".

Renaud manages to make one forget the fashionable singer, technicians assert. It is true that he is not a professional and does not have the technique of an actor, they say, "but the revolt that he has naturally inside himself and which comes to the surface spontaneously, predestined him for the part. That is obvious".

Another key part in *Germinal* is played by Gérard Depardieu. He acts Le Mahen, an important person in the Voreux mine, who, together with his wife, La Mabeude (played by the re-



A scene from Claude Berri's magnificent superproduction *Germinal*, based on Emile Zola's masterpiece, depicting the life of miners in the 19th century.

markable actress Mion Mion) is won over by the younger prophet announcing "the springtime of the humanness of work".

Gérard Depardieu, who is of international stature as an actor, wears the miner's cap with just as much ease as he holds Cyrano de Bergerac's

pen or wears Admiral Columbus's costume, scanning the horizon at the prow of the Santa Maria — *L'Actualité En France*.

Fall films: Using books and plays, movies suddenly turn serious

By John Horn

The Associated Press LOS ANGELES — When Hollywood wants to make serious movies, it knows just where to look — it looks elsewhere.

With *Labour Day* approaching and the summer film season winding down, the studios are making an artistic about-face. Instead of calculated crowd pleasers such as *Jurassic Park*, *In The Line Of Fire* and *The Fugitive*, the fall movie lineup is filled with distinctly intelligent, high-minded works.

But only a handful of these films were born on the back lot. Some of the more notable fall releases — *The Joy Luck Club*, *Short Cuts*, *Six Degrees Of Separation* — are not based on original screenplays. Instead, these and a half-dozen other autumn movies are adapted from hit plays and acclaimed novels or short stories.

With kids back in school, fall moviegoers are generally older and crave more sophisticated works. Trouble is, a

filmmaker rarely stumbles across a script that will satisfy this audience and these tastes. Most screenplays, in fact, are cookie-cutter variations on familiar themes.

So Hollywood producers turn to Broadway and bookshelves.

"They sort of have to, because they can't come up with anything that is serious on their own," says Robert Altman, who adapted *Short Cuts* from the pensive stories of Raymond Carver. "You don't just sit down and knock off a rather profound piece of work."

Says Fred Schepisi, the director of *Six Degrees Of Separation*: "It's very hard to convince Hollywood to allow you to write original or different material. They also have this disease called the three-week rewrite. When you have something rewritten that fast, it can't be as deep as a novel that's taken three years to write."

While there will be several lowbrow fall action films (*Demolition Man* with

Sylvester Stallone and Wesley Snipes, *Bruce Willis In Striking Distance*), adaptations will play a prominent role from now through November.

In *The Age Of The Innocence*, director Martin Scorsese retells Edith Wharton's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. His performers include Michelle Pfeiffer and Daniel Day-Lewis.

David Cronenberg directs Jeremy Irons in *M. Butterfly*, based on David Henry Hwang's Tony-winning drama of sexual deception and obsession. It is only the second film Cronenberg has directed since *Dead Ringers* (he directed *Dead Ringers* as he didn't write himself).

Even *Cowgirls Get The Blues*, Tom Robbins' wild novel about a hitchhiker and a lot more, is being adapted by Gus Van Sant (*My Own Private Idaho*). It stars Keanu Reeves and Uma Thurman.

The director-screenwriter-producer trio that made *Howards End* is adapting *The Remains Of The Day*, Kazuo

Ishiguro's wistful novel about an English butler. The cast is headed by Anthony Hopkins and Emma Thompson.

Of course, simply adapting a play or novel is rarely a painless process. Some books, such as Michael Crichton's *Jurassic Park* or John Grisham's *The Firm* are so straightforward and cinematic they translate easily to the screen.

Other works are far more complicated.

The Remains Of The Day on paper is essentially an extended monologue of reminiscences. Thanks to Robbins' vivid style, *Even Cowgirls Get The Blues* is as much an exercise in writing as it is in storytelling, and *The Joy Luck Club* is a complicated compendium of many interesting lives.

"You know you have something that's already working and is very powerful," Wayne Wang, who directed Amy Tan in *Ron Bass* adaptation of *The Joy Luck Club*, says of Tan's novel of the same name. But

the book, Wang says, is episodic and complex.

Those attributes, however, are part of what Wang considers the movie's appeal. "I think it's good that there's a change. People are probably getting tired of all the action movies and slapstick comedies," he says.

"Fall is generally the time we move into films that are a little more serious."

Altman was confronted by an even more sprawling source. Unlike the families in Tan's novel, the people in Carver's nine separate stories aren't related by blood. *Kathryn: A Short Cuts* is working with 22 characters united by experience, accident and geography. It also runs 3 hours, seven minutes.

Not a standard summer film, but right at home in the fall. "I would have hated my film to be released in the summer. I wouldn't have allowed it," Altman says. "The tenor of attitude changes in the autumn. I don't think this is a

typical movie. But any progress or change has to come from something atypical."

While Wang's film closely follows Tan's novel, Altman's film is an interpretation, rather than a translocation, of Carver's prose. Similarly, *Six Degrees Of Separation* starts in some places where John Guare's play stops.

Adapted by Guare, the film follows a wealthy New York family whose home and life is transformed by a visitor who proves too good to be true.

"I just think it is such a marvelous play of ideas," says director Schepisi. "Nevertheless, he adds, it needed to be adapted for the screen, not just filmed on stage."

"You'll be amazed at how much the same it is and how different it is in presentation," Schepisi says.

There's only one concern with so many refined movies coming out at the same time, Schepisi says: "All the good ones will come out and kill one another off."

List of fall movies

A list of some movies opening this fall. Some films will debut in a limited number of cities with additional locations added at a later date. Release dates are subject to change.

- Sept. 3: *Calendar Girl*, *Fortress*
- Sept. 8: *The Joy Luck Club*
- Sept. 10: *True Romance*, *Money For Nothing*, *Undercover Blues*, *M. Butterfly*, *The Last Party*, *Mother's Boys*
- Sept. 17: *The Age Of The Innocence*, *Me And The Kid*, *Airborne*, *The Real McCoy*, *Into The West*
- Sept. 24: *Striking Distance*, *Bopha*, *The Good Son*, *The Programme*
- Oct. 1: *Malice*, *For Love Or Money*, *Cool Runnings*, *Freaked*
- Oct. 3: *Short Cuts*
- Oct. 22: *Six Degrees Of Separation*, *Judgement Night*
- Oct. 29: *Ghost In The Machine*
- Nov. 3: *Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas*, *Even Cowgirls Get The Blues*
- Nov. 5: *The Remains Of The Day*, *Flesh And Bone*, *Robocop 3*, *Look Who's Talking Now*, *Man's Best Friend*

Euphoria as Ireland's biggest rock show comes home

By Paul Majendie
Reuters

DUBLIN — Bill Clinton raves about them, Salman Rushdie says they're great and David Bowie thinks they will keep on rocking until the 21st century.

Two million people have seen their show in 100 concerts around the world and now U2, Ireland's best known export since the invention of Guinness stout beer, are back for a hefty dose of hometown adulation.

In an industry where hyperbole is king, they are billed as the world's biggest rock group staging the largest show on Earth.

But the accolades and the statistics make impressive

reading on the "Zooropa" show which intersperses their rock anthem hits with live phone calls to the White House and video linkups with the war-wounded in Sarajevo.

Mr. Clinton, who met the group during his campaign for the U.S. presidency, said: "I found them to be passionate in their beliefs, dynamic and extremely hard working."

David Bowie, one of pop's great survivors, says of U2: "They might just be all sham-rocks and Deutchmarks to some but I feel they are one of the few rock bands even attempting to hint at a world which will continue past the next great war — the year 2000."



U2, Ireland's best known export since the invention of Guinness stout beer, return home

Salman Rushdie, facing an Iranian death threat because

of his novel *Satanic Verses*, was invited on stage by U2 in

London this month. It was his biggest ever public appearance.

"Not many novelists ever experience what it's like to face an audience of over 70,000 people and — fortunately for everyone — I didn't even have to sing," he told the Irish Times in a special supplement commemorating the group's return home for Dublin concerts Friday and Saturday.

Mr. Rushdie even put in a bid for a group name change. "Afterwards I suggested that perhaps we could rename the band U2 Plus One? ME2? — But I don't think they were for it."

The U2 travelling circus, with its 220-strong road crew and 1,200 tonnes of equipment, uses up enough electricity in one show to light an Irish town for two nights. Its giant lighting towers and radio masts have aircraft warning lights on them.

East German Trabant cars are suspended on stage, Leni Riefenstahl's Nazi propaganda films are flashed on screen, Beethoven's ninth symphony is used as backing music for a fast-edit video look at 20th century history.

Bono, lead singer of the group, has paused in the show to telephone German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, order takeaway pizza for the entire audience and talk to wounded victims of the Bosnian conflict.

In a satellite link-up with Sarajevo, a Bosnian art critic

told Bono: "The people of Sarajevo used to listen but all we hear now is the cry of a wounded people."

Bono replied: "We are ashamed to be Europeans tonight."

Pop fans can join in too. During the support act, you can dive into one of the "video confessionals" at the side of the stage and tell all in a 20-second film to the "video priest" who could include you on screen later on.

The U2 story began 16 years ago when four young Dublin schoolboys got together and named their fledgling rock group after an American spy plane.

Their eight albums have sold countless millions around the world and topped

the charts across continents. They followed the Beatles and the WHO as only the third rock group to be on the front cover of Time magazine. Rolling Stone magazine named U2 rock group of the 1980s.

John Lennon of the Beatles enraged people when he once said the Liverpool group was more popular than Jesus Christ.

The Edge, lead guitarist with U2, was asked by the Irish Times if he thought his group was more popular than Pope John Paul.

He replied: "It is all show business but we are involved in a different side of the business. He is very good at his gig. I hope we are very good at ours."

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Italians rediscover art treasures after bombings

By Vera Haller
Reuters

ROME — Shocked by a wave of bomb attacks against some of the country's best known treasures, Italians are suddenly paying attention to an artistic heritage they have generally taken for granted.

"Usually you see only the Japanese, French or German in Italian museums," said art historian Federico Zeri.

But these bombings appear to have stimulated the interest of Italians. They're asking "what are these museums?"

Many museums have reported an increase in visitors

since a car bomb on May 27 damaged about 60 paintings in Florence's priceless Renaissance Uffizi collection.

After Florence, another series of bombs on July 27 increased fears that a new "cultural terrorism" had emerged.

Two car bomb blasts in Rome damaged the Basilica of St. John Lateran, the Pope's cathedral in his capacity as Bishop of Rome, and the tiny seventh century church of San Giorgio in Velabro near the ancient Roman Circus Maximus.

The bombing of the Basilica, called "the mother of all

churches" and built on the site where the Emperor Constantine erected a church to mark the end of the persecution of Christians, particularly shocked Italians.

San Giorgio, according to ancient Roman legend, sits in the area where Romulus and Remus — the founders of the ancient capital — were found in the care of a she-wolf.

A bomb in Milan that same night, which killed five people, damaged a museum of modern art in the 18th century royal palace not far from the city's magnificent cathedral.

Such targets, in Italy, are

only too plentiful.

According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the country is home to more than half of the world's cultural heritage.

Mr. Zeri bemoaned the fact that much of it is neglected and, at 72, has devoted a career to poking and prodding the Culture Ministry to improve the way it manages monuments, archaeological sites and the state's 800 museums.

"In Italy, you can talk but your words disappear like a stone in a pond," he said in an interview at his art-filled

villa on a hillside outside Rome.

The prominent historian is furious that no official record is kept of works of art and outraged that churches and monuments near the homes of politicians often are restored before buildings of greater artistic importance.

"They have spent billions (of lire) to restore trash only because that trash was close to the homes of certain political tycoons," he said.

Mr. Zeri said Italy's artistic treasures had been neglected for decades by an antiquated bureaucracy and "an ignorant middle class," which he said had little interest in his-

tory and left museum-going to foreign tourists.

He also complained about the predominance of the Roman Catholic Church in Italy.

"Religious objects, which are very numerous in Italy, are only seen as a religious image not as works of art."

Mr. Zeri's complaints have been taken up by Culture Minister Alberto Ronchey, who recently appointed him to a panel of art experts who act as "super-consultants" to the ministry.

Mr. Ronchey, a former journalist who assumed the culture post a year ago, has won praise for his single-

minded and sometimes controversial approach to improving the state of Italy's artistic treasures.

However, he has not escaped Italy's widespread corruption inquiries, which include probes of the awarding of restoration contracts under previous culture ministers.

He was notified last month of an investigation into a plan to buy for the nation an abandoned 19th century villa in Rome at what is considered an elevated price.

In his capacity as minister, he angered Italy's pop stars by banning all rock concerts at Verona's ancient arena,

arguing vibrations from amplified music posed a risk to the monument.

Mr. Ronchey also set off widespread grumbling among state museum workers when he ordered museums to remain open a full day, instead of just mornings, and stoppe them closing on holidays.

Italians are apparently now expressing greater interest in the museums but Mr. Zeri also offered a more gloomy explanation for the recent outpouring of popular support.

"People love the scene of crime. It could just be morbid interest," he said.

Mental lapses 'may promote accidents' in left-handers

By Malcolm Ritter

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
TORONTO — Left-handed people may be more accident-prone than right-handers, and one reason may be a slightly greater tendency toward minor mental lapses, a new study suggests.

In the study of 2,379 male navy enlisted personnel, people who said they had more lapses also reported more accidents, and southpaws reported having more lapses and more accidents than right-handers.

The lapses are "minor mental mistakes that any of us would make when we're perhaps tired or distracted,"

said study author Gerald Larson. They could lead to mishaps because "we kind of lose track of what we're doing," he said.

Dr. Larson, who did the work with colleagues at the Navy Personnel Research and Development Centre in San Diego, Calif., discussed it in an interview before presenting it at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association.

Paul Satz, chief of the neuropsychology programme at the Neuropsychiatric Institute and Hospital at the University of California, Los Angeles, Medical School, said he found the work in-

teresting and provocative.

But in a telephone interview he cautioned that the conclusions should not be accepted without more scrutiny, because the study has limitations that could have biased the results.

Dr. Larson, who is right-handed, stressed that the study was not an official Defence Department project and said the findings cannot be applied to every left-hander.

He said mental lapses can be considered evidence of distractibility, and that they should be included as one possible explanation for accident rates among southpaws.

Past suggestions had blamed equipment designed largely for right-handers.

Some prior work has found more traffic accidents among people with more mental lapses, Dr. Larson and colleagues noted.

Mr. Larson said such lapses would not be a result of being left-handed. Instead, he said, whatever biological factors produced the left-handedness may also produce the lapses.

Participants in the study filled out questionnaires that asked about such minor mental lapses as forgetting why they went from one room to another, failing to see a pro-

duct in plain view on a supermarket shelf, bumping into people or forgetting a name.

They indicated how often they had each of 25 lapses on a five-point scale, with points ranging from zero for a "never" answer to four points for "very often."

The 231 left-handers in the sample reported an average of 35.6 points, compared to 33.4 points for the 2,148 right-handers, a statistically significant difference.

In addition, 39 per cent of left-handers said they had been hospitalized for injuries, versus 29 per cent for right-handers, and 27 per cent said they had been injured in a fall, versus 20 per cent for right-handers. There was no significant difference in citations for traffic accidents.

Analysis found that for both categories of participants, those who had re-

ported more mental lapses also tended to report more hospitalizations for injury and more injury-producing falls. The relationships were stronger for left-handers.

Dr. Satz said potential problems with the study include the facts that participants appeared more accident-prone than the general population and that results were based on their questionnaire responses without independent verification.

In addition, he said, researchers excluded ambidextrous people and did not say whether the higher average score for mental lapses by left-handers was due to very high scores from a small group, rather than a more general pattern.

Dr. Larson said Dr. Satz's observations were fair and that "there's certainly more work to be done."

In Colombia, new treatment for AIDS — love

By Michael Stott
Reuter

BOGOTÁ — When doctors told him he had AIDS, Jair wanted to die.

He arrived at Bogota's Eudes Foundation hospice "moribund, sick, thin" and lay barely conscious for eight days, hiding away from his wife and two children and hoping for a quick end.

A year later, Jair has put on weight and found a new will to live. "I saw the way that everyone in the hospice cared for each other and treated each other with love," he said in an interview. "I learnt to love the same way and I learned to love life again."

His story, and that of several dozen other HIV-positive patients, is a tribute to the Eudes Foundation, a Colombian charity run by a priest that believes that what AIDS patients need most is not drugs but love, affection and a chance to live in a caring environment.

The priest, Father Bernardo Vergara, started his foundation five years ago when he was shocked by official indifference to the plight of Colombia's AIDS patients.

At first he had to battle hard with popular ignorance and the hostility of neighbours.

"They thought their kids would all turn gay and catch AIDS or that their homes would lose their value because of us," hospice manager Jairo Villada recalled. "It got so bad that at one time we had to smuggle our dead out. We dressed them up and carried them into taxis pretending they were drunk."

After several moves, the foundation has finally settled in a suburb where neighbours are more accommodating and runs two modest but welcoming houses a couple of blocks from each other, as well as another two in villages outside Bogota and one near the city of Medellin.

"No one has really looked at the human side of AIDS," Mr. Vergara said in an interview at one of his Bogota hospices. "There's a lot of talk about compassion but no more. The only remedy for these patients is love."

Mr. Vergara's method is simple, but effective in raising sufferers' spirits. "If they have a high fever I tell them that they have to look after themselves, that they can't afford the luxury of a high fever, that we need them too much for that," he explains with a twinkle in his eye. "They feel loved and their temperature starts to come down."

"Through jokes and fun, we give them a chance for their condition to stabilize and for them to enter reality without trauma or fear."

His shelters do not provide medical treatment, leaving that to qualified professionals, but try instead to treat the emotional and psychological problems of HIV sufferers. A key element is that patients share rooms and help each other, organising chores such as cooking or cleaning communally.

"My experience with the virus has been very beautiful because it has taught me that love really does exist," said John Jairo, 30, another Eudes Foundation resident who discovered he was HIV-positive years ago. "The only

remedy that exists for us is love."

Dr. Bertha Gomez, who runs one of Colombia's biggest programmes at the publicly funded San Pedro Claver Hospital in Bogota treating 700 patients, agrees with Vergara's approach.

"AIDS is an illness that is basically about a lack of love," she said in an interview in her crowded consulting room. "Most of the patients come from a family environment where they were never loved, where they never valued themselves and so they didn't look after themselves."

Hospice dweller Juan Carlos, 19, fits that description perfectly.

His first gay relationship, with an older neighbour, started when he was seven. A couple of years later, his mother was beating him, burning his clothes and screaming at him for being "queer."

At 13, Juan Carlos was on the streets of Bogota, selling his body to wealthy locals. "The only thing I cared about was getting enough cash to live and buy clothes," he said.

Five months ago, a doctor diagnosed him as HIV-positive.

"I always worked with a condom, always, so I didn't believe the diagnosis and I carried on working for another five months," he said. "A week ago the father persuaded me to come to his hostel and I like it."

Glancing around in the hospice at his gay companions, nicknamed Pepsi, Pástel, Pony Malta and Pinocchio, he remarked: "There's a great sense of companionship and everyone really looks after each other."

Mr. Vergara prides himself on his ability to wean infected and desperate street prostitutes from their debilitating profession and into hospices. "Each night I keep them here I am saving seven families from AIDS," he says, referring to the average daily number of clients, but he stresses that his hospices are not just for gays or prostitutes.

Although their membership reflects the fact that Colombia's AIDS population is still overwhelmingly male and homosexual or bisexual, several of Mr. Vergara's charges contracted AIDS through blood transfusions and were destined to a life as outcasts waiting to die until they came to his hospices. Everything suggests that they are the tip of a huge iceberg.

Dr. Gomez is quick to ridicule government figures that speak of around 2,700 HIV-positive Colombians all and another 2,900 with full-scale AIDS. "The numbers are absurdly under-registered," she said. "For a start the only infections counted are those tested by the big government programmes."

She estimates the true number of infected Colombians at 100,000 to 200,000 out of a total population of 32 million. "The number of cases is doubling every seven months and yet this country is still in nappies when it comes to AIDS prevention," she said.

The Health Ministry in Bogota failed to respond to Reuter requests for an interview with Health Minister Juan Luis Londoño to discuss the country's AIDS problem.

Report finds no health risk in drinking water fluoride

By Paul Reecer
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Discounting studies that say there are health risks from fluoride in drinking water, a National Research Council (NRC) panel said there is no credible evidence that it is the chemical causes cancer, kidney disease or birth defects.

Dr. Bernard M. Wagner, a New York University School of Medicine professor and chairman of the NRC committee, said that the only proven harm to health from fluoride-laced drinking water that his panel could find was an increase in staining or pitting of tooth enamel, a condition known as dental fluorosis. About 10 per cent of Americans experience tooth staining in a "very mild to mild" form, he said.

"The overwhelming benefits of fluoride in water in terms of preventing caries, allowing young children to have a life of good teeth and maintaining those teeth into older life, far outweighs the small percentage of our population that shows fluoro-

sis," said Prof. Wagner.

An Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standard of no more than 4 parts per million of fluoride in drinking water was viewed by the committee as "appropriate." But the panel said this standard should be changed if new research indicated it.

American cities began adding fluoride to their water supply in the 1940s after research suggested it would reduce dental decay among the young. It is estimated that about 132 million Americans now use drinking water with fluoride levels above .7 parts per million, considered the minimum beneficial level.

The NRC committee said it is unable to gauge the true fluoride exposure that Americans experience because the chemical is present in foods, beverages and a wide array of dental products. In addition, fluoride often is applied during visits to a dentist.

As a result, said Prof. Wagner, the committee called for continued study to determine if a lifetime exposure to low levels of fluoride

could be harmful.

The committee found some studies that suggested that a long-term exposure to fluoride caused an increased tendency toward hip or vertebral fracture after age 80.

Prof. Wagner said the studies are inconclusive, but noted, "it would be important for us to know whether fluoride in some way is responsible or not." He said the National Institute of Health are now organising a long-term study on the question of fluoride and hip fracture.

"Fluoridation has been attacked for decades by groups that say the chemical is a poison that is forced on people when it is put in the drinking water. The Centre for Health Action, an association of anti-fluoride groups, and the Safe Water Foundation, have continually opposed efforts to introduce the chemical into municipal water supplies.

Two years ago, a study by the National Toxicology Programme found that high levels of fluoride caused cancer in a small percentage of

male rats.

Dr. John Yiamouyannis, president of the Safe Water Foundation, held a news conference at that time and said the study was only one of many that have shown fluoride can cause cancer.

Susan Pare, the Centre for Health Action's president, also claimed that fluoride did not reduce tooth decay.

Neither Dr. Yiamouyannis, Ms. Pare or others in the Safe Water Foundation or the Centre for Health Action responded Tuesday to repeated telephone calls.

In the NRC report, the committee said the National Toxicology Programme's work and hundreds of other research efforts were evaluated in a study that took 10 months.

The National Research Council is the operating agency of the National Academy of Sciences, a private, congressionally chartered organisation that does research for the government. The fluoride study was supported by the EPA, officials said.

Advance towards cancer vaccine reported

WASHINGTON (R) — Researchers have reported progress in laboratory animals towards development of vaccines against specific cancers and expressed hope the findings could soon be applied to humans.

A team led by doctors Robert Fenton and Dennis Taub of the National Cancer Institute was able to protect mice from a particular cancer by injecting them with a protein derived from mutant genes linked to that cancer.

The scientists now are attempting to determine whether humans can be similarly immunised. Dr. Taub said.

"We're going to conduct trials and look for protection from specific cancers," he said in a telephone interview adding only patients who already had cancer would be involved in the experiments. The report, published in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, focused on a gene called Ras.

Mutations of the Ras gene are implicated in some 30 per cent of human cancers including most commonly adenocarcinomas of the colon, pancreas and lung but also cancers of the thyroid gland, skin and blood.

The gene plays a role in the regulation of cell growth.

Ras can undergo a variety of mutations, each implicated in a particular type of tumour. Mutations cause the gene to become constantly activated triggering a series of events that transform a normal cell into a cancerous cell.

The researchers purified proteins derived from different types of mutant Ras genes and vaccinated the mice by injecting them with the proteins.

To check whether the vaccination worked, they then injected the mice with tumour cells derived from the same type of tumour linked to the particular Ras mutation.

"What we found was that the mice were protected against the tumour," Dr. Taub said. "This is very significant. We are finding up to 90 per cent survival in mice."

The team's work differs from other cancer research in that it employs a narrow focus rather than a broad-brush approach.

While most other researchers have concentrated on ways to trigger a broad immune system response, able to fight a wide range of cancers, the National Cancer Institute scientists are focusing on ways to combat individual cancers.

Test for cancer recurrence after colon surgery is unreliable — study

By Brenda C. Coleman

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — A blood test commonly used to detect new malignancies after surgery for colon cancer — the second leading U.S. cancer killer — is virtually worthless, researchers found in a large new study.

About 500,000 Americans now get the test at least once and possibly many times after colon-cancer surgery, researchers estimated in the latest issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

The \$55 test, called CEA for "Carcinoembryonic Antigen," measures blood levels of a carbohydrate-protein molecule that colon cancers may produce in large quantities, researchers said.

Though the test often warns that cancer has reappeared in the colon or elsewhere, it misses many recurrences. In other patients, it often suggests the presence of malignancies when none exist, the researchers found.

When the test result is right, it often is too late. And when it is wrong, far more expensive tests and even

surgery are needed to rule out cancer, they found.

The researchers, led by Dr. Charles G. Moertel of the Mayo Clinic, studied 1,216 colon-cancer patients treated after surgery in a number of states.

In 84 per cent, or 1,017 of the cases, doctors measured CEA levels to try to get an early warning for new cancers, researchers found in the eight-year study completed this year.

Exploratory surgery was performed on 115 patients with elevated CEA levels, and malignancies were surgically removed from 47 patients, the researchers said.

Yet only 2.3 per cent of all CEA-monitored patients who had second operations were alive and cancer free a year later, compared with 2 per cent of those who were not CEA monitored and had second operations.

"The results of this study are singularly disappointing in meeting the bottom-line objective of CEA monitoring, that is, an increase in cure rate," the researchers said.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

CELEBRITY REQUESTS

By Henry Sotzhandler

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Israel and PLO negotiate mutual recognition

(Continued from page 1)

opposed to Palestinian concessions, injected a note of caution to the chorus of optimism coming from Israel and the PLO.

"I can't say that we shall be in a position to sign this," Mr. Abdul Shafi said in Washington. He said the agreement still needed to be studied.

PLO political affairs chief Faruk Kaddoumi said the PLO was still studying the draft agreement with Israel and planned wide-ranging consultations with its allies before it could sign.

"The Palestinian leadership is still studying the draft Israeli-Palestinian agreement and has not taken a decision regarding it until now," Mr. Kaddoumi said in a statement released in Geneva.

"It is necessary to undertake wide-ranging Palestinian consultations, as well as with the concerned Arab states, in particular Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, our partners in the peace process with whom we have been committed to coordinate since the beginning of the peace process," he added.

The statement was released through the Palestinians' permanent mission to the U.N., where they have observer status.

Officials at the mission said Mr. Kaddoumi had asked them to pass on the statement.

Syria called on Israel Wednesday to take concrete steps to show that it is serious about striking a peace agreement with the Palestinians.

"I hope to be always optimistic but we have to base our optimism on facts and concrete things. We want to see more seriousness from the Israeli side to justify their optimism," said Syrian negotiator Moufak Alaf.

Israel's ambassador to the United States Itamar Rabinovich, who also is heading up the talks with Syria, said negotiations will focus on "people, security and the Golan Heights."

"We're still discussing but we haven't reached an agreement yet," he said as negotiators resumed talks at the State Department.

In Amman, a PLO official said Syria, Lebanon and Israel are holding secret talks in Spain on an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and South Lebanon. An agreement on the Golan Heights was near, he added.

"We have confirmed information that the Spanish government has been hosting the last two months high-level political and security meetings between the Israelis and the Syrians and Lebanese," said the official, quoted by Reuters.

The AP also carried a similar report from Amman quoting informed sources.

Israel's chief negotiator with the Syrians said on Tuesday Israel and Syria might reach the outline of an accord during either the current or next round of the talks in Washington.

"Our information is that the secret meeting have nearly ended and are about to conclude in a draft Syrian-Israeli peace agreement...the same secret contacts are also being conducted with Lebanese officials under Spanish auspices," said the PLO official quoted by Reuters.

U.N. welcomes autonomy accord

(Continued from page 1)

"I think this is a window of opportunity that should be seized," Mr. Kozirev told reporters in Geneva.

Russia is co-sponsor with the United States of the talks. Mr. Kozirev said he had been in close contact with his American co-sponsors and spoke to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher by telephone on Tuesday. Russia was also in close contact with all the other parties.

"We welcome this progress on the Gaza Strip and Jericho," he said.

Asked if Russia was urging the Palestinians to accept the autonomy deal, Mr. Kozirev replied: "I think basically this is a fair deal and I would see it as in the interests of all to seize this opportunity and start substantive negotiations which would lead to more stable settlement."

"While the end is a comprehensive settlement, progress of one sort or the other helps, to my mind, to reach a final settlement," he added.

The European Community applauded the Israel-PLO accord.

"The European Community and its member states pay tribute to the vision and courage of the Israeli and Palestinian leaders who have managed to overcome numerous thorny obstacles in order to lay the foundation for a better future for both their peoples," the EC said in a statement.

"The Israeli-Palestinian agreement in principle constitutes a historic step towards the establishment of peace in this sorely troubled region," it added.

The EC said it supported the Middle East peace process with a view to its leading to what it called a "just and lasting solution to the whole Israeli-Arab conflict."



Tyres burn in a street of Gaza the morning after the Israeli government's decision to approve an agreement between Israel and PLO to grant Palestinians autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho (AFP)



Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa (left) is amused by the very colourful tie of his Israeli counterpart Shimon Peres, as he arrived at Ben Gurion airport for a one-day visit to present PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's views on the peace process and to deliver a message from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak (AFP photo)

The official did not say where in Spain the meetings were being held.

In other developments related to the peace process, Syrian media warned that the draft accord for Palestinian autonomy jeopardised efforts to secure a permanent Arab-Israeli peace settlement.

"Only a comprehensive peace will enable the Arabs to recover their land, while separate deals and partial accords will not lead to true and lasting peace," the government daily Tishrin said.

"If Israel really wants peace, it must promise to withdraw from the occupied territories in line with U.N. Security Council resolutions and the U.S. initiative based on the principle of exchanging land for peace," Tishrin said.

But the newspaper said it hoped that the latest round of talks "will be different from the previous ones," while insisting that the "ball is still in the Israeli camp."

Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bouze had Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to discuss the Israeli-PLO agreement.

The official news agency SANA said Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa attended the meeting. It gave no further details.

Mr. Bouze told reporters Tues-

day the agreement was unclear and gave Palestinians little power.

— Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa presented PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's views on the peace process to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"The points of view of Yasser Arafat as we have heard them yesterday are now known to the prime minister," Mr. Musa told reporters after a few minutes in Mr. Rabin's office.

Mr. Musa added that he had also conveyed a message from Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak, who met Mr. Arafat in the northern Egyptian resort of Alexandria Tuesday.

"We are all hopeful, we are looking to the future, we are optimistic," Mr. Musa said.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Rabin was feted with bouquets of roses at a Palestinian school but was then pelted with eggs and called a "traitor" when he visited a Jewish neighbourhood.

Mr. Rabin's message was that there had been a fundamental change in the Middle East as a result of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, which he said he expected to be signed within a week.

In the Jewish neighbourhood of Ramot, Mr. Rabin told a group of about 100 high school students that the agreement meant that they would have a better chance of returning safely from the mandatory three-year army services awaiting them after high school.

"We must see with clear eyes, in faith and hope, that it can be different in the Middle East, that regions that were in enmity may be changed in stages, that we can cooperate," he told Itai Lev, 17, who asked Mr. Rabin what would await him as a soldier.

"Peace is not made with friends, but with enemies," Mr. Rabin said.

But the reception was hostile elsewhere in Ramot, a predominantly religious neighbourhood built on land seized by Israel in

the 1967 war and known as a stronghold of right-wing nationalists.

"Rabin is a traitor, Rabin is a traitor," cried hundreds of demonstrators as Mr. Rabin marched past small children holding blue-and-white balloons — the colour of the Israeli flag — in an elementary school that opened for the fall term Wednesday.

Entering the school, Mr. Rabin's entourage was pelted with eggs. Police arrested one man.

The prime minister was unimpressed. "I'm used to demonstrations. This doesn't move me."

In the neighbourhood of Bet Hanina, it was a different story. Residents joined the children and greeted Mr. Rabin with flowers, sweet pastries and soft drinks.

Mr. Rabin shook hands with teachers and strolled through a classroom of first-grade students, asking them about the books they were reading.

"I want to bless you for launching a new era in the Middle East," Mohammad Al Masri, the Bet Hanina council head, told Mr. Rabin.

Opposition leader Binyamio Netanyahu from the Likud bloc led a delegation of parliament members through Jericho, visiting the house that the local newspaper has dubbed Mr. Arafat's residence if the autonomy plans work out within six months as envisioned.

"I see a possibility that Arafat will move forward from here," Mr. Netanyahu said as two activists planted Israeli flags in front of the villa. "He says if this agreement is affirmed he will move on. What is the next goal? Jerusalem."

The delegation also visited a synagogue on Jericho's outskirts where about 30 religious students staged a protest vigil that the army disbanded.

The Israeli army has complained it was not consulted on the secret Israel-PLO talks on the autonomy accord and warned it was not ready to confront the new security risks.

"Until Tuesday morning, no soldier except the chief-of-staff, General Eshkol Barak, had read the documents of this accord," said General Amnon, Barak's deputy.

The army has no plan to respond to "the serious security problems raised by the accord," he said Tuesday, quoted by Israel Radio.

Gen. Shabak, addressing a closed meeting of the parliamentary committee for defence and foreign affairs, said "the chief of staff has not focused on these problems."

"The withdrawal of our soldiers will create serious security problems. It will be very difficult to hunt down wanted Palestinians," Gen. Shabak said.

Arafat seeks Fateh support

(Continued from page 1)

Jerusalem as capital," he admitted to the gathering at Al Najah University.

"People believe this aim (a Palestinian state) is still a long way off, but we believe it is very close and we are on the way."

"The way is long and hard, but we know that this people are ready for sacrifice, to give of themselves for the cause," the PLO chairman said.

Demonstrations were also organised by Fateh in Jericho and Hebron on the West Bank and Shatti refugee camp on the occupied Gaza Strip in favour of the autonomy agreement.

The Shatti rally was dispersed by about 200 activists from the fundamentalist group Hamas who used knives, axes and clubs to break up the crowd.

Shouting "God is great" as well as "betrayers and collaborators," the attackers wounded at least 20 people and destroyed cars parked in the area, Arab reporters said.

They said about 1,000 people had gathered to hear speeches in support of the autonomy plan. The fundamentalists tore up a

Palestinian flag, ripped down banners and smashed the music equipment of a band singing Palestinian songs.

"Negotiators, stop the series of compromises. The trumpets of surrender must be silenced," said a Hamas leaflet distributed in Gaza.

It said the group would continue its violent attacks against Israelis, described as "monkeys and pigs."

The leader of an Israeli far right-wing party has issued a veiled threat to Mr. Arafat about his safety if he comes to Jericho.

Rehavim Zeevi, leader of the Moleket Party which has three deputies in parliament, said: "If the Israeli government brings Yasser Arafat here alive, to Jericho, in the occupied West Bank, I don't know what state he will leave in."

Mr. Zeevi was among a group of 15 right-wing Israeli lawmakers who travelled to Jericho Tuesday to voice their opposition to the "Gaza-Jericho first" peace initiative.

Confusion surrounds PLO-Israeli accord on Gaza-Jericho option

Key dates of the accord

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord on interim Palestinian self-rule is being hailed as a historic breakthrough but neither side seems clear just how or whether it will work.

The agreement, if signed as expected during peace talks in Washington, outlines the principles which should govern the transfer of limited self-rule to the two million Palestinians of the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The all important details of how Palestinians are to take control of their daily lives still have to be negotiated.

Not surprisingly, after a century of struggle over the same land that both sides believe is theirs by right, the divergence is wide.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat is trying to sell the accord to a divided PLO as the first step towards the movement's traditional goal of an independent Palestinian homeland.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has ruled out statehood. His aides talk of giving Palestinians something more than autonomy but less than sovereignty in any land-for-peace final settlement.

Fears that Palestinians could end up with less than they bargained for have tempered the enthusiasm of some like spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi.

"(The accord) has the potential of being a historical turning point but I would caution against getting carried away with symptoms and signals before we have something really tied down and we have a signed agreement and we have all the components in place," she said as Israeli and Arab

negotiators gathered in Washington for an 11th round of talks.

Syria, Jordan and Lebanon, the other Arabs in the peace process, also wonder whether the PLO has made too many concessions in backing a "Gaza-Jericho first" proposal.

Under this proposal Israel would pull out its army from the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho and give residents there "full autonomy." It would allow the nearly one million remaining West Bankers more limited self-rule during a five-year period when talks on a final settlement would start.

Some Palestinians fear areas of the West Bank and Arab East Jerusalem would not be included in autonomy.

They want an agreement on East Jerusalem before they sign but Israel rejects this. They want a freeze on Jewish settlement in all of the occupied lands but Israel says no.

They want a total troop withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho but Israel insists on security for the few thousand Jewish settlers in the Gaza Strip. There are no settlers in Jericho.

Mr. Arafat, however, believed his chance of securing anything for his people after nearly 50 years of fruitless struggle was slipping.

He pushed through the Gaza-Jericho idea despite the opposition of many PLO leaders inside the occupied territories on the principle of "take what you can get now and bargain for more later."

Not later than the eve of council elections, Israeli forces will be redeployed outside populated areas. Further redeployments to specified locations will be gradually implemented commensurate with the assumption of responsibility by the Palestinian police force.

The five-year transitional period to begin upon the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho area.

Permanent status negotiations will commence as soon as possible, but not later than the beginning of the third year of the interim period.

Not later than the eve of council elections, Israeli forces will be redeployed outside populated areas. Further redeployments to specified locations will be gradually implemented commensurate with the assumption of responsibility by the Palestinian police force.

The five-year transitional period to begin upon the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho area.

Permanent status negotiations will commence as soon as possible, but not later than the beginning of the third year of the interim period.

PLO's three decades of struggle

PARIS (AFP) — The agreement in principle reached between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on autonomy for the Gaza Strip and the West Bank city of Jericho is a turning point after three decades of hostility.

May 28, 1964: The PLO is formed in Jerusalem and draws up a Palestinian national charter as a framework for the organisation. Revised in 1968, the charter maintains that "armed struggle is the sole means of liberating Palestine."

April 9-10, 1973: Three Palestinian leaders, including Abu Yusef (Mohammad Najjar), military head of Fateh, the main component of the PLO, are killed in Beirut by Israeli army commandos.

June 6, 1982: Israeli troops invade Lebanon. Operation "Peace in Galilee" is officially meant to protect Israel's northern border against attacks and infiltrations by Palestinian groups.

Aug. 31, 1982: After the siege of Beirut by the Israeli army, Yasser Arafat, leader of the PLO since February 1969, leaves the Lebanese capital, which had been the Palestinian headquarters since 1971. The PLO set up in Tunisia.

April 10, 1983: Mr. Arafat's personal adviser and a believer in dialogue between Israel and Palestine, Issam Sartawi, is killed in Portugal. Responsibility is claimed by the Abu Nidal group, which is not part of the PLO.

Sept. 2, 1983: Mr. Arafat meets Uri Avnery and Matti Peled, members of the Israeli delegation from the Israeli-Palestinian peace committee, in Geneva for a conference on Palestine.

Oct. 1, 1985: More than 170 Palestinians and Tunisians are killed or wounded in an Israeli raid on the PLO headquarters near Tunis. Mr. Arafat, whose office is completely destroyed, narrowly escapes death.

December 1987: Beginning of the Palestinian "intifada" in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

April 16, 1988: Khalil al Wazir, Abu Jihad, military head of the Fateh and close to Arafat, is killed in Tunis by an Israeli commando.

Sept. 12, 1988: Israeli pacifists Abie Nathan meets Mr. Arafat in Tunis. In 1989 he will be condemned to 18 months in prison, 12 of them suspended, for breaking a 1986 law forbidding Israelis to have any contact with groups classed as "terrorist."

Nov. 15, 1988: The Palestine National Council (PNC) proclaims in Algiers the creation of the independent Palestinian state and accepts U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, implicitly recognising the existence of Israel. The PNC rejects all forms of terrorism including terrorism by the state.

May 2, 1989: Mr. Arafat declares the Palestinian national charter "obsolete."

Jan. 2, 1990: Israeli Science Minister Ezer Weizman, a believer in dialogue with the PLO, is excluded from a cabinet meeting by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, following a secret meeting with a PLO leader. On March 24, 1993 he will be elected Israeli president.

June 29 and July 5, 1991: New meetings in Tunis between Mr. Arafat and Mr. Nathan. In October Mr. Nathan is sentenced to three years in prison, with 18 months suspended.

Oct. 30, 1991: Start of the Middle East peace talks in Madrid. During the talks Israel refuses any direct participation by the PLO, but closes its eyes to contacts between Palestinian delegates and the PLO.

1993:

Jan. 19: The 1986 law forbidding those living within Israeli jurisdiction to have any contact with "terrorist" organisations is abolished. But the Israeli government continues to consider the PLO a "terrorist organisation."

Jan. 21: Mr. Arafat addresses Israelis live for the first time in a telephone message broadcasting from Tunis by Israeli television. He calls on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to meet him for peace talks.

Jan. 29: Mr. Arafat meets Yael Dayan, daughter of the former General Moshe Dayan and an Israeli Labour Party deputy, in Tunis.

April 9: Israel accepts for the first time the inclusion of Faisal Husseini, a leading nationalist from the occupied territories who is also close to Mr. Arafat, in the Palestinian delegation in the talks.

Aug. 12: Mr. Husseini, head of the Palestinian delegation, maintains that negotiators are "clearly representatives of the PLO in the peace talks."

Aug. 29: Israel announces an agreement in principle with the PLO on autonomy for the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

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U.S. growth in second quarter revised upward

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. economy grew in the second quarter at a slightly stronger pace than previously thought, the Commerce Department said Tuesday, mainly because businesses added more goods to their inventories.

In the April-June quarter, the country's output of goods and services as measured by gross domestic product (GDP) expanded at a 1.8 per cent annual rate instead of the 1.6 per cent rate reported previously.

That followed slim growth at an 0.8 per cent rate to the first quarter, which was also revised upward from a previously reported 0.7 per cent as part of the government's recasting of the past three years of economic history to reflect the latest information.

The upward revision in second-quarter GDP was a surprise to Wall Street economists, who had instead forecast it would be reduced to a 1.1 per cent annual rate.

Not only did companies produce more goods to add to their stocks, but governments at the federal, state and local levels

boosted spending on projects like new highways and defence goods. That offset weaker consumer spending during the second quarter than previously estimated.

"The basic underlying theme, which is one of modest economic growth at best, has not changed," said economist Sung Won Sohn of the Conference Board, a private business group in New York, said its August survey of consumer confidence was barely changed at 59.0 per cent in August compared with 59.2 per cent in July. It said that level of confidence was associated with weak economic prospects.

The Commerce Department also published revisions to its earlier estimates for GDP dating back to 1990.

They showed that the loss in goods and services output during the 1990-91 recession, which lasted from July 1990 to March 1991, was less severe than thought. They also indicated that growth since the recession ended was stronger than earlier estimated.

One of the most notable changes was a revision upward in

GDP growth during the final quarter of last year to a vigorous annual rate of 5.7 per cent instead of 4.7 per cent.

That made the closing 1992 quarter the strongest period since the economy expanded at a 5.9 per cent rate five years earlier in the final three months of 1987. By contrast, the pace of growth in the first half of 1993 has slowed abruptly.

Most economists anticipate GDP growth will pick up to about a 2.5 per cent to three per cent annual rate to the second half. The Clinton Administration is to issue its delayed mid-year review Thursday amid expectations of about two per cent to 2.5 per cent — not much different from 1992's revised 2.6 per cent growth and too little to generate many jobs.

The government earlier said the economy grew in 1992 by a smaller 2.1 per cent. It also revised its 1991 estimate to show a contraction of 0.7 per cent instead of a 1.2 per cent falloff to output and said that in 1990, the economy grew by 1.2 per cent instead of 0.8 per cent.

Spain orders management shakeup at loss-making airline

MADRID (R) — The Spanish government, faced with mounting losses at Iberia Lineas Aereas Espanolas S.A., announced a major management shakeup Tuesday to try to put the state airline back on course for profitability.

State-owned Instituto Nacional de Industria (INI), which controls 99.8 per cent of Iberia, said its chairman Javier Salas was replacing Miguel Aguiló at the helm of the airline and that other INI officials would take key posts.

A brief statement issued by INI gave no reasons for the decision, but industry sources said new

Industry Minister Juan Manuel Eguilaz wanted the state holding company to take a much more hands-on management role at Iberia.

The decision was adopted at a special board meeting of Teneo, the subsidiary of INI which includes companies in the group deemed to be profitable, including Iberia.

INI's deputy chairman, Miguel Coenra, was named to the same post in Iberia and Juan Saez, who heads INI's shipyards division, becomes managing director of Iberia and chairman of Iberia subsidiary Aviaco, which operates domestic flights.

Iberia, like other airlines, was hit first by the Gulf conflict and then by the deepening recession in Europe, and accumulated losses of 70.72 billion pesetas (\$24 million) in 1991 and 1992. According to press reports, it lost a further 30 billion (\$22 million) in the first six months of this year.

The sources said the losses were not the direct reason for Mr. Aguiló's replacement, but that there had been differences be-

tween the former chairman and Mr. Salas over Iberia's programme of investment in Latin America.

An auditors report on the 1992 accounts says the terms set for the acquisition of Aerolineas Argentinas and Venezuelan airline Viasa had led to delays in completing the acquisitions and problems in effective decision-making.

These acquisitions, which also include a stake in Chile's Ladeo, have sustained large losses and the auditors said it was not possible to evaluate the return on Iberia's investments until these companies have implemented recovery plans.

Parallel to the ambitious expansion plan in Latin America, Mr. Aguiló began a 1992-96 restructuring plan, largely aimed at cutting costs. This involved reducing the payroll by 3,321 in 1992 to 25,500 and a planned 1,500 more this year.

The airline is scaling down plans to expand its fleet, which totalled 116 at the end of December.

PAL eyes alliance with bigger partner

MANILA (AFP) — Philippine Airlines (PAL) is seeking an alliance with a bigger foreign partner as part of its strategy to weather turbulence in the industry, a senior official said.

Executive Vice President Romeo David told a business forum here Tuesday that the flag carrier was engaged in discussions with all Nippon Airways, Korean Airlines, and American Airlines.

The alliance could take the form of route complementation or foreign equity in PAL, which was privatised last year but remains 46 per cent state-owned.

Mr. David said "pursuing possible alliances" with a foreign partner was part of a "survival strategy" in the face of growing competition and downturn in the industry worldwide.

PAL's net income was down eight per cent to 1.025 billion pesos (\$38 million) in the 1992 fiscal year.

PAL earlier announced it was deferring acquisition of six Airbus 340s to 1995 even though the planes are scheduled for delivery by mid-1994. PAL last year made a \$75 million downpayment on the aircraft but later had misgivings about its choice.

Mr. David also said PAL was rationalising its losing operations in Europe and may cut its service down to only two cities, Frankfurt and either Rome or Paris.

Azerbaijan postpones exit from rouble zone

MOSCOW (R) — Azerbaijan's Prime Minister Suret Huseinov has suspended his own decree making the new manat currency the only legal tender in the former Soviet republic from Sept. 1, Turan News Agency said Tuesday.

The Azeri agency said the suspension was prompted by a shortage of manat notes and coins, which are currently circulating in parallel with roubles.

Turan quoted Mubarriz Huseinguliyev, head of the cabinet's finance and credit department, as saying that leaving the rouble zone immediately would create serious difficulties between Russian and Azeri companies.

Several former Soviet republics have dumped or made plans to dump the rouble after Russia's shock decision in July to withdraw all pre-1993 banknotes from circulation on its territory — tantamount to the introduction of a Russian national currency.

Berlin saves piano-maker Bechstein from bankruptcy

BERLIN (R) — Germany's renowned piano-maker Bechstein, which filed for bankruptcy in July, said Wednesday Berlin's government had stepped in to relieve it of most of its debt burden, allowing it to stay in business.

The city government had agreed to purchase the piano-maker's Berlin property for 30 million marks (\$17 million) and rent it back to the company, said Karl Schulze, managing director of C. Bechstein Pianofortefabrik GmbH.

This would cut the 140-year-old firm's debt to about 10 million marks (\$6 million), he told a news conference.

Relieved of most of its debt, Bechstein said there were enough orders to continue operations. It expects steady demand of about 450 upright pianos and 200 grand pianos each year.

Bechstein had faced liquidation because of heavy losses, falling sales and the refusal of its banks to provide new loans.

Sales had fallen by three million marks (\$1.7 million) to 20.8 million marks (\$12 million) in 1992 and were expected to reach only 15 million (\$8.7 million).

Bechstein, which in the early part of the century made nearly 5,000 instruments a year and employed 1,100 people, currently has just 60 employees.

It was established in 1853 by Carl Friedrich Wilhelm Bechstein and its early customers included composers Franz Liszt, Richard Wagner and Claude Debussy.

Belgium will maintain 'strong franc' policy

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Belgium is determined to maintain its "strong franc" policy of keeping the Belgian franc aligned with the Deutsche mark, the governor of the National Bank of Belgium, Fons Verplaetse, said here.

In remarks made to journalists Tuesday but embargoed for release until Wednesday, he said the central bank had no choice but to pursue "a rational option determined by concrete circumstances."

Last week a group of 14 Belgian economists urged the government to lower interest rates in order to encourage economic growth — a move which would mean the depreciation of the franc against the mark.

But Mr. Verplaetse said Belgium needed to limit the costs associated with a floating currency, particularly since it was one of the world's most open economies with imports accounting for over 40 per cent of domestic demand.

He was making his first public comments since the European Monetary System (EMS) buckled last month under the strain of keeping its system of linked exchange rates anchored to the mark.

On Aug. 1 the core European Community currencies agreed to a considerable loosening of their

fluctuation bands to 15 per cent around central rates, a move which would allow them to lower interest rates.

But Belgium, like France, has so far maintained the value of its currency relative to the mark, by refusing to lower interest rates despite escalating calls to fight unemployment and recession by reversing this policy.

Mr. Verplaetse said that monetary policy was not a proper tool to achieve an economic turnaround and that high short-term interest rates were needed to discourage currency speculation.

He said Belgium would damage its currency credibility if it lowered short-term interest rates, because this would result in higher inflation and the need to raise the rates again later on with damaging economic consequences.

However, he added that the central bank would cease buying up Belgian francs for the moment to support the currency, and would work through interest rates instead.

But Mr. Verplaetse said he would not "hand the currency speculators a weapon" by revealing the fluctuation limits the bank intended to allow the Belgian franc.

Tin prices fall to historic low

KUALA LUMPUR (R) (AFP) — The price of tin on the Kuala Lumpur Tin Market (KLTM) plunged to an all-time low Wednesday due to poor demand and a prolonged glut of the metal as a global export cutback scheme hangs on the balance.

"The market is really going crazy and this spells more trouble for the industry," warned Redzwan Samun, executive secretary of the Association of Tin Producing Countries (ATPC).

Tin prices fell sharply by 31 Malaysian cents (about 12 cents) to close at a record low of 11.69 Malaysian ringgit (\$4.67) a kilogramme, rewriting the previous all-time low of 12 ringgit (\$4.80) Friday.

Amid the metal's lacklustre performance, an ATPC ministerial meeting has been scheduled for Oct. 25-26 here to discuss the fate of the association's global scheme to control supply aimed at bolstering prices. Mr. Redzwan said.

"The ATPC executive committee will thrash out the pros and cons of continuing the scheme before the ministers make the final decision," said Mr. Redzwan, adding that more mines face the prospect of closure due to the depressed prices.

"Current prices are way below the cost of production of 15 ringgit per kilogramme and mines that have been chugging along all this while may also have to close shop," Mr. Redzwan said.

The ATPC has been adhering to the scheme since 1987 with the aim of depleting global excess stocks to 20,000 tonnes by the end of this year.

The global stock overhang at end of last year was still 38,200 tonnes, nearly double the target set under the scheme.

ATPC officials said the excessive stocks were primarily due to dumping by the United States and increased exports by producers not under the ATPC umbrella, including Russia and Peru.

The ATPC comprises Australia, Bolivia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand and Zaire, and observers China and Brazil. They account for 75 per cent of global tin production.

Russian automaker raises prices 40%

MOSCOW (AP) — One of Russia's leading automakers has raised prices 40 per cent, the recently privatised company's deputy director said.

As of Wednesday, Sept. 1, the most expensive Lada automobile cost 11.21 million roubles, or more than \$11,000, said Viktor Klintsev, deputy director of the AvtoVAZ company.

The same car cost 7.7 million roubles, or about \$7,700, Tuesday.

Most ordinary Russians have found their already modest salaries badly eroded by inflation and would be hard pressed to pay the new prices. Russia's newly affluent, on the other hand, prefer flashy foreign imports.

Mr. Klintsev said every model

made by AvtoVAZ has gone up "about 40 per cent." Sept. 1 price hike has affected all Lada and Zhiguli cars, he said.

"It is a forced measure," Mr. Klintsev said. "Costs — power, parts, material — have increased in the last two months."

AvtoVAZ's cheapest car cost around \$3,000 as of Wednesday. Dealers' markups add another 10 to 25 per cent to the price of a new car.

AvtoVAZ was recently privatised and is now a joint stock company. Mr. Klintsev said production has been falling for the past five years and AvtoVAZ now makes about 680,000 vehicles a year.

"We used to make 740,000," he said.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 2, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Avoid any frills today and stick to good "meaty" substances as you show that you are a down to earth statesman. Individual who knows how to take a joke and laugh at yourself if the case, need be.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Start your activities early in a summer that you get the good will of one who is in a position of authority, then don't do anything to upset good results.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A well organized and practical man from different background to yourself has some excellent suggestions for you but don't jump into them too hastily.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Think about what you can do to get family resources and accounts on a more solid structure and it won't be necessary to make big expenditures.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Communications with a business friend can aid you in a more satisfactory joint course of action but don't go overboard in showing appreciation.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Being more exact and particular about money matters can make it easier for you to build up more assets and to have a greater abundance for later on.

VERGO: (August 22 to September 22) Take some time out to arrange

THE BETTER HALF By Gladys Jan GABERER

"I'm checking to see if they can surgically remove old girlfriends from a man's brain."

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME By Henry Arnold

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VOCAL
[] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

HADEA
[] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

DIEBES
[] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

SPRAYT
[] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

WHAT THE PLAY-WRIGHT TURNED GARDENER WORKED ON.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

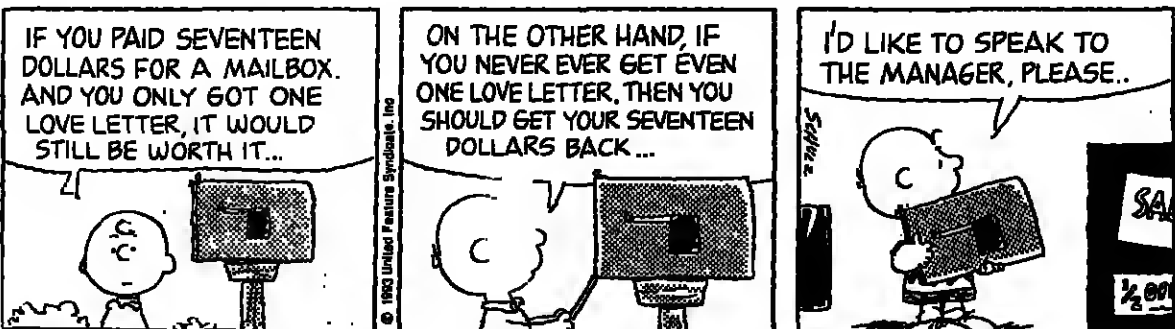
Saturday's Jumbles: BARGE LANKY SLEIGH PICKET
Answer: What a pessimist might expect to get on a silver platter — TARNISH

THE Daily Crossword by Stanley B. Whitman

ACROSS

- DEA agent
- With Judy
- Breeze heavily
- Location
- Merrily
- Bread spread
- Most brokerage affected
- Elevate
- Humbly
- Fabric
- Feather: part
- Prohibition
- Corn or cycle
- Shout
- Shaky
- entrapment
- Shell fragments
- "On a Clear"
- Can See Forever
- Flare
- Morning moisture
- Feed the kitty
- Strong cliffs
- Like a vegetarian meal
- 7/6 have made
- Inched
- Protrusion
- Johnson
- Play — mode
- City of Light
- NY school letters
- Valley, n.g.
- Oil carol
- Illicit brokerage operation
- "18" (Jury novel)
- Nibbles
- A Benet
- Remembrance
- Large quantity
- Require
- Down
- Blow
- Island off
- Venezuela
- Military mission, for short
- 4th Birthday item
- Head
- Tennis great
- Excessively affected
- Sixth sense
- Representations
- To shelter
- Cloze
- Cornish animal
- Bar legally
- Tailless rodent
- Complete
- Made in a factory abbr.
- Mouth organs
- Fragrant resin
- Clois Sandberg
- Petrels
- Thinks to court
- Food fish
- Sharpen
- Brave
- Weather word
- Infectious with beetles
- Ready for war
- Obstetrical
- Semen port
- Depend
- Pocket bread
- Turkey's neighbor
- Rate that
- Curve

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



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U.S. Open

Edberg squeaks by; Fernandez pulls out Agassi, Capriati and Stich upset

NEW YORK (AP) — Stefan Edberg lay sprawled on the court, knocked down at the net by a blistering backhand to his head. He rose slowly, like a boxer at the count of nine.

And just as slowly, gasping for air, he sat up, looking back under a blue towel held by a ballboy on the sidelines, slowly struggled back to his feet. He did this after time a year ago to win his second straight U.S. Open.

Meanwhile, former junior champion Thomas Enqvist of Sweden made a spectacular U.S. Open debut by bouncing Andre Agassi in the opening round on a day that also saw Michael Stich and Jennifer Capriati fall.

Agassi, seeded only 16th but considered a legitimate contender for his first U.S. Open title, dug a deep hole for himself and fell short in his attempt to claw his way out as Enqvist prevailed 6-4, 3-6, 6-7, 6-2.

No defending men's champion, he lost in the first round of the U.S. Open, much less a two-time defending champion like Edberg, as Tuesday he barely avoided a historic upset, surviving 6-2, 6-4, 7-6 (9-7), 5-7, 6-3 in a seven-set drama against 99th-ranked Olivier Delaunay.

Just fortunate was Capriati, the women's No. 7 seed, dumped out in the first round by 16th-ranked Stich, 1-6, 6-4, 6-4.

"I couldn't believe I could get easily off after the first set when played great," said Capriati, who punched a forehand long to end an 18-shot rally on the final point. That was Capriati's first unforced error, more than double Stich's total.

Mary Joe Fernandez, the women's No. 6 seed, withdrew from the tournament because of abdominal pain. She will be replaced by a lucky loser.

Bye-bye, too, went men's No. 6 Michael Stich, the second men's seed to lose, succumbing to Henrik Holm, 6-3, 7-6 (10-8), 3-6, 6-3.

Not all the top players had a tough time. No. 1 Jim Courier dispatched Marco Andreozzi 6-1, 6-3, 6-3. No. 7 Michael Chang beat Shelby Cannon 6-1, 6-2, 6-2. No. 12 Thomas Enqvist downed Alex Corretja 6-4, 6-3. Women's No. 8 Jana Novotna, the Wimbledon finalist, defeated Angelica Gavaldon 6-2, 6-4.

Czech tennis ace Novotna found herself assigned to the outer reaches of the National Tennis Centre for her first-round U.S. Open match.

She was sharing a court next to a men's match, smack in the middle of the sounds and smells of this frenzied event. Is this any way to treat the Wimbledon runner-up?

But Novotna was not disturbed at playing in the boondocks, surrounded by the food court and concessionaires. She went about her business, defeating Gavaldon in an efficient, if unspectacular match.

"Today was nothing special," said Jana Mandlikova, who is



Stefan Edberg of Sweden is jubilant after he won his match (AFP photo).

her coach. "She was good enough to win."

Novotna is best remembered for her final set foldup at Wimbledon, when she blew the sport's most prestigious title to Steffi Graf. Novotna was up 41 in the third set when a double fault triggered her downfall and left her weeping on the shoulder of the Dutchess of Kent.

"People think she choked at Wimbledon," Mandlikova said. "She knows she didn't. She got to the finals. How many people have done that? I was there twice and she was closer to winning than I ever was. That's an unbelievable achievement. I'm sure she'll have another chance."

Mandlikova said Novotna put the disappointment of Wimbledon behind her almost immediately.

"I took me longer than her to recover," Mandlikova said.

In fact, Novotna's display of emotion — the kind of human reaction so rarely seen on tournament tennis courts — has won her a cotillion of fans.

"Before that, they did not know her," Mandlikova said. "They would ask for my autograph, 'Hana Hana' now it's 'Jana Jana'."

Novotna said she has received worldwide support following Wimbledon.

"Everybody has been touched by this moment," she said. "I hope that this moment will stay with them forever, like with me. I will cherish this moment the rest of my life."

Novotna has turned the negatives of that loss into a positive.

"It was a great disappointment at the same time," she said. "I have to get on with my life and this year gives me so much confidence. If I can take advantage of that, it will turn things for myself. I think I am doing that so far."

Asked what she would say if

she could send a message to the Dutchess, Novotna smiled.

"Tell her I appreciate very much what she said to me, and it is always nice to see her sitting there and being involved in tennis so much."

When teenage American tennis ace Capriati went down in three sets, she gave an older and lesser known Georgian her "best win" ever.

"In '91 I had a very few good wins against top-ten players, but the U.S. Open is different," said Meshki after beating the 7th seed in the first round.

Meshki first gained attention at America's premier tennis tournament by upsetting fourth-seeded American Pam Shriver in 1988 in the second round. She then lost in the third round to underdog American Terry Phelps.

In 1989 Meshki became the first Soviet woman to win a tournament in 15 years by taking the Virginia Slams of Nashville.

But the 25-year-old, ranked 37th in the world, is glad she no longer plays as a Soviet.

"I'm Georgian. I speak Georgian," she said in an interview with the Associated Press. "So all the time it was wrong. I'm not Russian."

In 1991, Meshki beat the 17-year-old Capriati in three sets in the Family Circle Magazine Cup at Hilton Head.

Capriati drowned in a sea of unforced errors. Why so many? "I don't know," she said. "I wish I knew."

"Maybe I lost concentration, just cased up a bit. I just started making errors and lost it mentally."

As for Meshki, who reached the quarters at the Open in 1990, the match was hardly a walk.

"She is very tough, Meshki said. "She always plays very good. The first set, she played unbelievable. I didn't have a

chance to win one point. But in the second set, she started to make a lot of mistakes."

U.S. OPEN NOTEBOOK

The U.S. Open lost one of its top players Tuesday without a racket being swung.

Mary Joe Fernandez, the women's sixth seed from Miami, withdrew from the tournament just before her first-round match because of abdominal pain.

Further details of her illness were unavailable from tournament officials.

Fernandez's seeding will remain vacant, with her place in the draw taken by Maria Jose Gaidano of Argentina, a loser from the qualifying tournament.

It was not immediately clear when the first-round match in which Fernandez was to have faced Andrea Vieira of Brazil would take place.

Fernandez was a semifinalist at the Open last year and was runner-up to Steffi Graf at the French Open last June.

A victory plus frequent-flyer miles: Thomas Muster won his first-round match at the U.S. Open Tuesday. That was the easy part.

Getting here was quite a trip. While most players were tuning up on American hardcourts, Muster spent last week in Umag, Croatia, playing on his favorite surface — clay. He won the tournament, but had 4,000 miles (6,400 kilometres) and six time zones between that trophy and his next stop.

So Muster, an Austrian, hustled from Umag to Paris, hopped the Concorde and broke the sound barrier to New York, arriving about 5 a.m. Monday.

Refreshed and on New York time after a day on the ground, he made quick work of Alex Corretja of Spain, 6-4, 6-4, 6-3.

Summer in the city: The Open always seems to be greeted by hot, sticky weather and this August is no exception. An unusually hot summer in New York is ending with typical conditions and bringing unusual warnings for fans.

As temperatures reached the upper 80s under hazy sunshine Tuesday, message boards throughout the National Tennis Centre urged spectators to watch out.

"Due to weather conditions, please use sun protection," the messages said. "Rest in the shade and drink plenty of fluids."

It's crowded out there: That message was flashed to a record number of tennis fans, too. Attendance for Tuesday's day session was 22,357, the largest for a single session in the tournament's history. The old record was 22,166, for the day session on Aug. 26, 1991.

The record crowd included 500 fans who purchased grounds passes, which entitled them to watch all matches except those on the stadium court. They are being sold for the first time this year.

Brazilian squad is all work, no play

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — It was all work and no play as the Brazilian national squad returned to their training complex in mountainous Teresopolis 100 kilometres outside of Rio.

"We won a battle but we haven't won the war yet," said Brazilian manager Carlos Alberto Pereira, referring to Brazil's 6-0 thrashing of previously unbeaten Bolivia Sunday. Brazil still has two more games in World Cup qualifying action.

Grazzi has erred in past competitions by celebrating victories before they were won, Pereira said. "This time there will be no celebration until we have our passport to the United States stamped."

Brazil cleaned its soul by beating upstart Bolivia, as fans for the first time in this year's qualifying matches applauded play.

In Recife, where the game took place, a special troop of 300 military police had to protect players from frenzied, euphoric fans.

Sunday's upcoming game against group lantern Venezuela is seen by experts as a chance for Brazil to test different formations.

Brazil's leading striker Bebeto, who received his second yellow card against Bolivia, must sit out Sunday's match as well as midfielder Dunga who was ejected for rough play.

Palmeiras striker Evair has been named to substitute Bebeto, and the people's choice, Paltinha, will play for Dunga.

Fans, in public opinion polls, have said for weeks they want to see rookie Paltinha on the Brazilian squad playing alongside team captain Raul. It was this duo that led Sao Paulo to victory in last year's Toyota Cup and their second straight Libertadores Cup in 1993.

Paltinha's enchanted observers in last week's scrimmages in Teresopolis, some comparing his style to former striker Tostao of the 1970s world champion squad. Others compare his field vision with that of Zico, a standout on the 1982 and 1986 teams.

In this year's Libertadores Cup finals, sportscasters said that "when Paltinha and Raul are on, they wait down the field as untouchables." Another called Paltinha the Fred Astaire of modern Brazilian soccer.

"Paltinha has a class all of his own," Pele said Sunday as a TV Globo sports commentator. "He plays the creative kind of soccer that made Brazil three times world champion."

Brazil will also have a chance against Venezuela to further strengthen their defensive line, a standout against Bolivia.

Arabian horse festival set for Sept. 19

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein Wednesday held a press conference to discuss the 5-day Arabian horse festival which will be held in Jordan Sept. 19-24.

The festival will include a

broad programme which will encompass training courses for umpires and veterinarians and a contest of Arabian horses.

Seven countries will be taking part in the festival, the fourth of its kind to be held in the Kingdom.

Participants include Qatar, Egypt, Oman, Iraq, Britain, the U.S. and Jordan.

Princess Alia is president of the Arabian Horse Organisation and chairwoman of the Royal Jordanian Horse Breeding Society.



Paris St Germain soccer fans clash with riot policemen on the stands of the Parc Des Princes stadium during a French Cup quarter-final match earlier this week.

France announces crackdown on hooligans

PARIS (R) — French Sports Minister Michele Alliot-Marie said Tuesday police would crack down on soccer hooligans to prevent a repeat of the violence that marred a match in Paris last weekend.

Details of the campaign would be unveiled by Paris police chief Philippe Massoni Wednesday, Alliot-Marie told France-3 television.

The government would probably ask parliament to adopt a law to combat violence in soccer stadiums, she said.

"There will be concrete measures, there will surely be periodic legislative measures and then I think there is a lot of prevention and education."

Ten policemen were injured by Paris St. Germain fans in clashes after a French League match against Caen at the Parc Des Princes stadium in Paris last Saturday.

The government is anxious to stamp out soccer hooliganism because France is due to host the 1998

World Cup.

Massoni has urged the public to help identify the Paris St. Germain fans who attacked the policemen in what he called "a savage, premeditated attack."

Police have set up a special telephone hotline to encourage the public to come forward with information.

Massoni said the attack had been planned in advance and that the fans had smuggled tear gas grenades into the stadium despite strict security checks.

"It definitely appears that this action was premeditated and deliberate," he said.

One of the injured policemen was still in intensive care on Tuesday, but his condition was improving, a police spokesman said.

Authorities in eastern France, fearing violence when Paris St. Germain play there Wednesday, have called in dozens of extra riot police ahead of the match.

Lemond wants to retire with a winning year

MEDINA, Minnesota (AP) —

He has been beset by chronic fatigue, a feud with his father and a year of uncompleted races and poor finishes.

Greg Lemond, three-time winner of the Tour de France, calls it a "searching year for me."

Lemond, the only American to win cycling's most prestigious event, is thinking about retirement. But first he has some work to do.

"My whole focus is having a good year next year," Lemond said from the Medina mansion he shares with wife Kathy and three children. "At least with European racing, I want to go out on top."

Lemond's only victory since the 1990 Tour de France was last year's Tour de Pont. He finished seventh in the 1991 tour de

France, dropped out last year from exhaustion and didn't enter this year's race because of allergies and fatigue.

"I've raced 15 years; I'm looking forward to retirement," Lemond said. "If I have another year like this, I'll retire. I think probably I'll stay in the business and cycling, maybe be manager of a team."

It's the business end of cycling that Lemond blames for ruining his last racing season. He said last winter's dispute with his father, Bob, over Lemond enterprises — Greg's bicycle company — caused stress that led to chronic fatigue. The company reportedly was more than \$1 million in the red when Lemond dismissed his father as its president.

"He started the bike company — it was his project — and he had a hard time letting it go," Lemond recalls. "Last winter was

the most painful thing I've ever been through."

That's something coming from a man who was almost killed in a 1987 hunting accident and who even now is wearing a cast on a wrist fracture while training.

But in the matter of complete, nobody wants out Greg Lemond. He's got a legion of fans, a weight, fatigue and allergies, but he also has strong motivation as he begins training again next month. The last half of a \$1.5 million contract with the French team Cann, and a chance to beat his old rival Miguel Indurain, who won the last three consecutive Tours de France.

"If Greg really wants to do it, he can do it," said former national cycling champion John Eusebio, who began his career with Lemond. "His body is fine. It's a matter of if he wants to."

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARAF & TAMARA HENOKH

SAFE OR SORRY?

Neither vulnerable, North deals.

NORTH: ♠ A K Q J 4, ♥ A B B 3, ♦ 7 4, ♣ 8 8 8.

EAST: ♠ 9 8 7 6 5, ♥ 10 9 8 7 6, ♦ A K Q 10 7 5, ♣ A K Q 10 7 5.

SOUTH: ♠ 10 9 8 7 6, ♥ A K Q 10 7 5, ♦ A K Q 10 7 5, ♣ A K Q 10 7 5.

The bidding: North: East: South: West: 1♠: 2♠: 3♠: 4♠: 5♠: 6♠: 7♠: 8♠: 9♠: 10♠: 11♠: 12♠: 13♠: 14♠: 15♠: 16♠: 17♠: 18♠: 19♠: 20♠: 21♠: 22♠: 23♠: 24♠: 25♠: 26♠: 27♠: 28♠: 29♠: 30♠: 31♠: 32♠: 33♠: 34♠: 35♠: 36♠: 37♠: 38♠: 39♠: 40♠: 41♠: 42♠: 43♠: 44♠: 45♠: 46♠: 47♠: 48♠: 49♠: 50♠: 51♠: 52♠: 53♠: 54♠: 55♠: 56♠: 57♠: 58♠: 59♠: 60♠: 61♠: 62♠: 63♠: 64♠: 65♠: 66♠: 67♠: 68♠: 69♠: 70♠: 71♠: 72♠: 73♠: 74♠: 75♠: 76♠: 77♠: 78♠: 79♠: 80♠: 81♠: 82♠: 83♠: 84♠: 85♠: 86♠: 87♠: 88♠: 89♠: 90♠: 91♠: 92♠: 93♠: 94♠: 95♠: 96♠: 97♠: 98♠: 99♠: 100♠: 101♠: 102♠: 103♠: 104♠: 105♠: 106♠: 107♠: 108♠: 109♠: 110♠: 111♠: 112♠: 113♠: 114♠: 115♠: 116♠: 117♠: 118♠: 119♠: 120♠: 121♠: 122♠: 123♠: 124♠: 125♠: 126♠: 127♠: 128♠: 129♠: 130♠: 131♠: 132♠: 133♠: 134♠: 135♠: 136♠: 137♠: 138♠: 139♠: 140♠: 141♠: 142♠: 143♠: 144♠: 145♠: 146♠: 147♠: 148♠: 149♠: 150♠: 151♠: 152♠: 153♠: 154♠: 155♠: 156♠: 157♠: 158♠: 159♠: 160♠: 161♠: 162♠: 163♠: 164♠: 165♠: 166♠: 167♠: 168♠: 169♠: 170♠: 171♠: 172♠: 173♠: 174♠: 175♠: 176♠: 177♠: 178♠: 179♠: 180♠: 181♠: 182♠: 183♠: 184♠: 185♠: 186♠: 187♠: 188♠: 189♠: 190♠: 191♠: 192♠: 193♠: 194♠: 195♠: 196♠: 197♠: 198♠: 199♠: 200♠: 201♠: 202♠: 203♠: 204♠: 205♠: 206♠: 207♠: 208♠: 209♠: 210♠: 211♠: 212♠: 213♠: 214♠: 215♠: 216♠: 217♠: 218♠: 219♠: 220♠: 221♠: 222♠: 223♠: 224♠: 225♠: 226♠: 227♠: 228♠: 229♠: 230♠: 231♠: 232♠: 233♠: 234♠: 235♠: 236♠: 237♠: 238♠: 239♠: 240♠: 241♠: 242♠: 243♠: 244♠: 245♠: 246♠: 247♠: 248♠: 249♠: 250♠: 251♠: 252♠: 253♠: 254♠: 255♠: 256♠: 257♠: 258♠: 259♠: 260♠: 261♠: 262♠: 263♠: 264♠: 265♠: 266♠: 267♠: 268♠: 269♠: 270♠: 271♠: 272♠: 273♠: 274♠: 275♠: 276♠: 277♠: 278♠: 279♠: 280♠: 281♠: 282♠: 283♠: 284♠: 285♠: 286♠: 287♠: 288♠: 289♠: 290♠: 291♠: 292♠: 293♠: 294♠: 295♠: 296♠: 297♠: 298♠: 299♠: 300♠: 301♠: 302♠: 303♠: 304♠: 305♠: 306♠: 307♠: 308♠: 309♠: 310♠: 311♠: 312♠: 313♠: 314♠: 315♠: 316♠: 317♠: 318♠: 319♠: 320♠: 321♠: 322♠: 323♠: 324♠: 325♠: 326♠: 327♠: 328♠: 329♠: 330♠: 331♠: 332♠: 333♠: 334♠: 335♠: 336♠: 337♠: 338♠: 339♠: 340♠: 341♠: 342♠: 343♠: 344♠: 345♠: 346♠: 347♠: 348♠: 349♠: 350♠: 351♠: 352♠: 353♠: 354♠: 355♠: 356♠: 357♠: 358♠: 359♠: 360♠: 361♠: 362♠: 363♠: 364♠: 365♠: 366♠: 367♠: 368♠: 369♠: 370♠: 371♠: 372♠: 373♠: 374♠: 375♠: 376♠: 377♠: 378♠: 379♠: 380♠: 381♠: 382♠: 383♠: 384♠: 385♠: 386♠: 387♠: 388♠: 389♠: 390♠: 391♠: 392♠: 393♠: 394♠: 395♠: 396♠: 397♠: 398♠: 399♠: 400♠: 401♠: 402♠: 403♠: 404♠: 405♠: 406♠: 407♠: 408♠: 409♠: 410♠: 411♠: 412♠: 413♠: 414♠: 415♠: 416♠: 417♠: 418♠: 419♠: 420♠: 421♠: 422♠: 423♠: 424♠: 425♠: 426♠: 427♠: 428♠: 429♠: 430♠: 431♠: 432♠: 433♠: 434♠: 435♠: 436♠: 437♠: 438♠: 439♠: 440♠: 441♠: 442♠: 443♠: 444♠: 445♠: 446♠: 447♠: 448♠: 449♠: 450♠: 451♠: 452♠: 453♠: 454♠: 455♠: 456♠: 457♠: 458♠: 459♠: 460♠: 461♠: 462♠: 463♠: 464♠: 465♠: 466♠: 467♠: 468♠: 469♠: 470♠: 471♠: 472♠: 473♠: 474♠: 475♠: 476♠: 477♠: 478♠: 479♠: 480♠: 481♠: 482♠: 483♠: 484♠: 485♠: 486♠: 487♠: 488♠: 489♠: 490♠: 491♠: 492♠: 493♠: 494♠: 495♠: 496♠: 497♠: 498♠: 499♠: 500♠: 501♠: 502♠: 503♠: 504♠: 505♠: 506♠: 507♠: 508♠: 509♠: 510♠: 511♠: 512♠: 513♠: 514♠: 515♠: 516♠: 517♠: 518♠: 519♠: 520♠: 521♠: 522♠: 523♠: 524♠: 525♠: 526♠: 527♠: 528♠: 529♠: 530♠: 531♠: 532♠: 533♠: 534♠: 535♠: 536♠: 537♠: 538♠: 539♠: 540♠: 541♠: 542♠: 543♠: 544♠: 545♠: 546♠: 547♠: 548♠: 549♠: 550♠: 551♠: 552♠: 553♠: 554♠: 555♠: 556♠: 557♠: 558♠: 559♠: 560♠: 561♠: 562♠: 563♠: 564♠: 565♠: 566♠: 567♠: 568♠: 569♠: 570♠: 571♠: 572♠: 573♠: 574♠: 575♠: 576♠: 577♠: 578♠: 579♠: 580♠: 581♠: 582♠: 583♠: 584♠: 585♠: 586♠: 587♠: 588♠: 589♠: 590♠: 591♠: 592♠: 593♠: 594♠: 595♠: 596♠: 597♠: 598♠: 599♠: 600♠: 601♠: 602♠: 603♠: 604♠: 605♠: 606♠: 607♠: 608♠: 609♠: 610♠: 611♠: 612♠: 613♠: 614♠: 615♠: 616♠: 617♠: 618♠: 619♠: 620♠:

Promising Bosnia talks break down

Combined agency dispatches

GENEVA — Bosnian peace talks which appeared headed towards settlement abruptly broke down Wednesday as the three parties angrily accused one another of last-minute intransigence with an accord in sight.

"The co-chairmen have finished the talks," Croatian President Franjo Tudjman told reporters. "Everybody is leaving, there is no agreement."

Mr. Tudjman said the Croats wanted a settlement but in a reference to the Muslim-led government said, "Unfortunately there are some who are not interested in peace but in the continuation of the war."

Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban said: "Harbingers of death have broken up the talks today. I am saddened."

But officials of the Sarajevo government, who earlier reported movement in talks on the ethnic partition of Bosnia, blamed the Serbs and Croats for refusing what they called reduced and "minimal" demands.

Fikret Abdic, a Muslim member of the collective Bosnian presidency, said that mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg were "afraid that all humanitarian activities will be jeopardised."

Diplomatic sources said Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic found the offers from the Serbs and Croats insufficient but had been ready to come back Thursday for more discussions.

The turnaround came as the year-old talks appeared to be heading towards a settlement based on the division of Bosnia into three republics along ethnic lines.

The Bosnian government had been the only holdout to a proposal for a loose Bosnian union that would give them 30 per cent of the former Yugoslav republic to 52 per cent for separatist Serbs and 18 per cent for Croats.

Diplomatic sources had said Bosnian Serbs had made territorial concessions in eastern Bosnia to the reluctant Muslim-led government to allow it to link its enclaves with Sarajevo and the rest of central Bosnia. But a key stumbling block was Muslim access to the Adriatic Sea via the

mainly Croat port of Neum. They said the Muslims had also sought more Serb-held land in the northwest but would not insist on the point in the face of strong Serb opposition.

Earlier in the afternoon, Bakir Izetbegovic, Bosnian Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic's son and personal secretary, had said, "We are so close to an agreement now that it would be tragic if the talks collapsed."

The Muslim leader had criticised the partition plan as rewarding Serb and Croat aggression. Bakir Izetbegovic specified that the Muslims wanted a wider corridor linking eastern enclaves of Gorazde, Zepa and Srebrenica with the Muslim state, and the Serbs' return of the northern town of Prijedor. From the Croats the Muslims demanded a land corridor leading to Neum.

A source close to the talks said Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic agreed to a three-kilometre-wide corridor in eastern Bosnia, but refused to hand over Prijedor.

Mr. Tudjman had refused to let the Muslims have Neum because it would split the key resort of

Dubrovnik from the rest of Croatia.

The Associated Press obtained a copy of a draft agreement designed to deal with the government demands for access to the Adriatic Sea and for a wider land link between Muslim enclaves in Serb-held territory in eastern Bosnia and for a Serb outlet to the sea in the south.

The draft said there should be bilateral talks on these outstanding issues after the signing of an overall peace agreement.

As a concession to the Serbs, the draft text stated that sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro should be gradually lifted as the peace accord was implemented.

During face-to-face talks Tuesday, Mr. Izetbegovic and Mr. Karadzic agreed on a five-point plan, including the cessation of hostilities. The warring factions have repeatedly agreed and broken ceasefires.

They agreed on prisoner exchanges and a telephone hotline between government headquarters in Sarajevo and the Bosnian Serb base in Pale, and on a joint commission to regulate electricity and water.

"As soon as the Palestinians and the Israelis sign an accord, we will be able to announce our joint agenda," he said.

"Barring any last minute surprises, there is a high chance that we will also be able to sign our joint draft Jordanian-Israeli agenda at this round of peace talks," an official told Reuters.

"The fact that Israel and the Palestinians are about to sign the

framework of Palestinian self-rule is removing the key obstacle that has prevented us from signing our draft accord with Israel, which is almost ready," the official said.

A deal on Palestinian self-rule is likely to be signed before Israeli negotiators return from talks in Washington for the Jewish holiday of Rosh Hashanah beginning Sept. 16.

Jordanian officials say their joint agenda with Israel is only the first step towards an eventual comprehensive peace agreement in line with U.N. resolutions 242 and 338.

Israel is believed to have agreed to return two small strips of fertile land to Jordan and give it more water from the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers.

The two have also agreed to discuss the right of return of hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees who fled to Jordan in the 1967 war.



A Palestinian refugee in Ain Helwe refugee camp in South Lebanon, Youssef Saftawi, who fled in 1967 from East Jerusalem, shows documents for property belonging to him in Jerusalem, and wonders what will happen to his property following the Israeli-Palestinian agreement (AFP photo)

Jordan hopes to finalise agenda for talks

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Nordic countries to give \$125m to occupied lands

VISBY, Sweden (Agencies) — The Nordic countries agreed Wednesday to grant a total of one billion kroner (\$125 million) to the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank, a Norwegian foreign ministry official said Wednesday.

Norway will give 200 million (\$25 million), while Denmark has said it is willing to contribute 300 million (\$37.5 million). Finnish Foreign Minister Heikki Haavisto revealed that the Finnish share of the aid will be between 30 and 40 million Finnish marks (between \$5.1 and \$6.9 million).

The remainder will be divided between Sweden and Iceland. The five Nordic foreign ministers gathered Tuesday and Wednesday on the Swedish island of Gotland in the Baltic Sea for a meeting on international affairs.

Israel Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said last week during his visit to the five Nordic countries that he had suggested that they donate five per cent of their foreign aid for the coming years for Gaza and the West Bank.

In an official statement, the Nordic ministers welcomed the recent successes in the peace negotiations and expressed strong support for the efforts to reach a balanced agreement.

The ministers share a deep concern that the economic crisis in the occupied territories is a threat to peace in the region.

"Extensive international aid will be necessary to create a vigorous Palestinian autonomy and economically sound development in the occupied areas," the statement said.

"We have agreed to give aid from the Nordic countries to stabilise the peace process and move it forward," Norwegian Foreign Minister John Jørgen Holst said, and promised 100 million kroner (\$13.7 million) in aid and possibly another 150 million kroner (\$20.5 million) from his own department.

Swedish Foreign Minister Margareta af Ugglas spoke of sums up to 180 million kroner (\$22.5

million) in aid. "I assume that there will be an increased Swedish contribution after the promising breakthroughs we've seen," she said.

Denmark's Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen was pleased with the recent days' developments and looked to the future.

"Now we have to see to it that there will be a breakthrough for the areas and people that are affected," he said, and suggested that the United Nations police and Witske Agency (UNRWA) play a more active and leading role in cooperation with the World Bank.

The leaders called for a new Nordic meeting of civil servants to work out the details of the aid package.

France wants EC actions

France has urged its European Community (EC) partners to decide how much funding they could provide to the Palestinians once an agreement between the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel has been set into motion.

A French foreign ministry spokesman said Paris had urged its 11 EC partners "to quickly examine what aid, mutually economic aid, the European Community could contribute when the time is ripe to implement the plan."

Yasser Arafat, chairman of the PLO, sent a message to France early last week requesting funding for a Palestinian entity to emerge from the peace process.

EC information on chief Yasser Arafat said in Paris last week that similar requests had been made to Belgium, The EC president, and to the United States and Russia as co-sponsors of the 22-month peace negotiations.

The EC on Tuesday welcomed what it called an historic agreement between Israel and PLO aimed at giving Palestinians self-rule.

Qadhafi calls for dialogue with U.S., rejects threats

CAIRO (Agencies) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi on Wednesday urged the United States to negotiate with Libya over its refusal to hand over two suspects in the bombing of a Pan Am airliner.

"There must be negotiations on the problems between America and us, even on Lockerbie," Col. Qadhafi said.

His comments came during a three-hour speech to mark the 1969 revolution that brought him to power by overthrowing the monarchy.

Col. Qadhafi said the United States, Britain and France are using the Lockerbie issue to engineer a confrontation with Libya.

"We are in a head-on confrontation with them. This is not our fault at all. The Lockerbie issue is really an excuse... at any moment now we will be in a state of confrontation... at any moment the sword will strike," Col. Qadhafi said.

Libya has been under U.N. arms, air and diplomatic sanctions since April 1992 to force it to hand over for trial in Britain or the United States the two suspects who have been charged with the 1988 bombing of Pan Am 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 270 people.

France wants Libya's cooperation in its investigation of a 1989 attack on a UTA plane over Niger that killed 171 people.

The three Western countries last month warned Libya that if it did not deliver the two men by Oct. 1, they will try to freeze its assets abroad and ban its purchase of oil equipment.

Col. Qadhafi denied reports that he was willing to turn over the two and accused foreign embassies and intelligence services of the United States, France and Britain of spreading this rumour.

"Those who spread rumours that the two wanted Libyans would be extradited as firing bullets in our midst and I would

never forgive them," he said. He said discussions with the West to resolve the dispute had been suspended and that Libya would not bow to Western threats.

Libya "will not be threatened into changing its position on the Lockerbie affair," Col. Qadhafi said.

"All the negotiations underway between Libya and the West have been suspended because of the ultimatum," he added in a speech marking the 24th anniversary of his takeover of power in 1969.

Libya has proposed that the suspects be tried in a "neutral" country, complaining the demands were a breach of its sovereignty and that the suspects would otherwise not get a fair trial.

Last month the official Libyan news agency JANA reported that Libya was willing to cooperate with the French judicial authorities and that a dialogue was underway with France.

Libyan foreign minister Omar Al Muntasser also said in August that he had discussed with U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali the possibility of bringing to trial the two Libyans accused by Washington and London.

Scottish coalminers who sought a lifetime from Libya to keep their pit going said on Wednesday they would turn down the money if it upset the public.

"We would not wish to offend anyone," Jackie Aitchison, chairman of Monktonhall Mineworkers, a co-operative which leases the colliery near Edinburgh from state-owned British Coal, said in a telephone interview.

"We are very, very conscious of people's feelings and their opinions about Libyan money, especially from a regional point of view, as the town of Lockerbie is closed to Monktonhall."

The miners caused a storm this week when Scottish media reported they had held talks with Libya's state-owned Arab Foreign Investment Company about funds to continue in business.

Darwish says resignation is final

AMMAN (J.T.) — Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish, Wednesday announced he was not reversing his resignation from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee and said that the PLO's days were over.

"The only remaining role the PLO has to play is signing the agreement with Israel after which the organisation will be transformed into something else," the poet said in a statement carried by Al Quds Press.

"Can we ignore the real and artificial fears that our Arab 'neighbours' display regarding the agreement with our Israeli 'neighbours'?" he questioned.

The reasons over which he resigned, Mr. Darwish said, are related to the peace process. "My conscience can't tolerate taking part in this adventurous decision (approving the Gaza-Jericho first agreement)," he said.

He also criticised the PLO financial management saying the PLO was on the verge of collapse. "Look at the organisation carefully: its institutions and its offices do not function any more... we have driven two generations to death (in the name of) liberty and independence."

Al A'hd Party hails 'Gaza-Jericho' plan

By Saad Silawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The secretary general of Al A'hd Party, Abdul Hadi Al Majali, Wednesday dismissed fears expressed by some people that the so-called "Gaza-Jericho first" option poses dangers to Jordan.

"Though we have not received details of the agreement, we believe that it would not lead to mass migration of Palestinians to Jordan as opponents of the proposal believe," said Mr. Majali in a statement to the Jordan Times.

"On the contrary, I believe that this step is an achievement — burying the idea of creating a 'greater Israel' and an alternate homeland for the Palestinians," he said.

"Since the start of the peace process in Madrid, the Jordanian negotiating team has been reaffirming the Palestinian people's right to establish their state and determine their future like other nations on earth," Mr. Majali said.

Noting that Jordan has reached preliminary agreement on a common agenda with Israel in the peace process, Mr. Majali said that the Kingdom had made it clear that it was suspending prog-

ress on its own track with the Israelis until progress has been achieved along the Palestinian-Israeli track and the other Arab-Israeli tracks.

"Our party accepts only what is acceptable to the Palestinians and we will display understanding of their position," Mr. Majali said.

"Al A'hd Party indeed can only support any step or move that would ensure the return of the occupied Palestinian land and the achievement of a just peace acceptable to the future generations," he said.

Noting that the Gaza-Jericho option has indicated the lack of coordination among the Arab parties, Mr. Majali said that such a situation should not adversely affect inter-Arab relations.

"Al A'hd Party calls on the Arab countries to transcend this predicament for the sake of safeguarding the higher national interests," he said.

"Our party views with optimism the Gaza-Jericho first option and the subsequent self-rule in the occupied Palestinian lands, and considers it as a step towards ending the suffering of the Palestinian people who have been living under the yoke of occupation for so long," Mr. Majali said.

Gaza poll shows little support for 'Gaza-Jericho' or confidence in Arafat

AN OPINION poll conducted in the Gaza Strip over the weekend suggests there is considerable disquiet at the prospect of the "Gaza-Jericho first" agreement being implemented, with less than a quarter of respondents supporting the plan and only around a third believing that Arafat wants to make a success of it.

The poll was conducted on Sunday and Monday jointly by two Palestinian research organisations, the Media Services Centre and the Bisan Organisation, for Tuesday's edition of the Saudi daily The Ashraq Al Awsat.

It questioned a sample of 100 Gaza Strip residents aged 20 to 66 covering a broad socio-economic spectrum, one quarter of them women.

While the results showed a considerable proportion of respondents were unsure what to make of the plan, many expressed concern that Israel would continue to turn into a failure in order to avoid implementing autonomy in the West Bank at a later stage, and feared that it would create tension between Gazans and West Bankers.

A large majority also thought that opting for the scheme would mean abandoning or conceding many Palestinian "national rights," particularly of those Palestinians — who form a majority of the Strip's inhabitants — who were made refugees by the creation of Israel in 1948.

The poll also indicated that the proposal had further eroded PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's popularity, with nearly three quarters

objecting to the way decisions are made in the PLO and two-thirds expressing lack of confidence in Arafat's personality.

Before being quizzed, respondents were asked to read a brief definition of the "Gaza-Jericho first" option as a proposal to implement Palestinian autonomy in the two areas for a two-year interim period, during which the Palestinians would be required to demonstrate their ability to run their own affairs and preserve security and their desire for peace with Israel. If they succeed, autonomy can be extended to most of the rest of the West Bank, with the status of Jerusalem remaining unresolved.

Under the secret deal struck by the PLO and Israel, Arafat would reportedly move to Gaza or Jericho and take charge of internal security, but Israeli troops would continue to be deployed in non-residential areas and Jewish settlements and would control access to Gaza and Jericho. Thus Israel would accord the PLO a role in the search for a solution while implementing it in stages and making the introduction of autonomy in the West Bank conditional on the "success" of the pilot scheme in the Strip and Jericho.

They were then asked to reply to the following questions: Do you think that implementation of the proposal will create a rift and suspicion between residents of the Strip and residents of the West Bank who will not obtain the same deal?

Yes: 71.9%
No: 26.7%

Do you think Israel wants the Gaza-Jericho option to work and will therefore not seek to obstruct

it by sowing discord among the people or creating security problems as a pretext for not extending the solution to the West Bank?

Yes, Israel will not create problems: 34.8%
No, Israel will create problems: 37%
Undecided: 28%

Do you think the Palestinians will obtain foreign financial support if they agree in this solution, or will the financial pressure on them be maintained?

Aid will be forthcoming: 34.8%
Financial squeeze will persist: 65%

Do you personally agree to the Gaza-Jericho proposal despite its future implications for historical rights, and do you think it will strengthen or weaken the demand for rights in 1984 Palestine?

Yes, I approve of the proposal: 26.6%
No, I do not approve of the proposal: 22.5%
Yes, the proposal will strengthen demand for historical rights: 12%

No, the proposal means conceding historical rights: 37%
Are you acquainted with the decision-making process in the PLO?

Yes: 60%
No: 38%

Do you approve of the way decisions are taken with the PLO?

Yes: 24.7%
No: 74%

Do you have confidence in the Palestinian president and support all the decisions he takes concerning the fate of the Palestinians?

Yes: 30%
No: 66%

— Mideast Mirror

Secret contacts under way over Kuwaiti offer to reconsider cases of Jordanians, Palestinians

By P. V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Secret contacts are continuing among human rights activists, lawyers and mediators over a Kuwaiti offer to reconsider the cases of Jordanians and Palestinians detained in Kuwait if Iraq releases Kuwaiti nationals that Kuwait says are held in Iraq, informed sources said Wednesday.

"The idea was first mooted several months ago by Kuwaiti human rights activists but nothing came out of it since there was no Kuwaiti government endorsement of the proposal," said a lawyer closely involved in the exchange.

"But now it seems that there is a change of mind in the ruling circles of Kuwait and contacts have been revived," added the lawyer, who preferred anonymity.

Several dozen Jordanians and Palestinians are in Kuwaiti prisons after they were convicted of "collaborating" with the Iraqis during the seven-

practices were not applied in the court which found them guilty.

The Jordanian government as well as Parliament and activists have condemned the trials and appealed for international intervention to suspend the sentences.

The lawyer, whose account of the affair was confirmed by two human rights activists, said that one of the major snags was a dispute over the number of Kuwaitis held in Iraqi prisons.

"Our contacts in Iraq have established that there are only 135 Kuwaiti nationals undergoing prison terms in Iraq," said the lawyer. "They were convicted of non-political crimes after a due legal process in a court of law."

Kuwait claims that nearly 800 Kuwaitis remain under Iraqi detention without charge.

Following the Gulf war which ended its occupation of Kuwait in February 1991, Baghdad released several thousand Kuwaitis who were rounded up and taken to Iraq at the end of the conflict.

The Kuwaiti government, acting through the Arab League, handed over a list of the alleged prisoners to former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, who visited Iraq and

met with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein three months ago.

Mr. Ortega, who appeared to have assumed the role of a mediator at that time, told the Jordan Times upon his return from Baghdad that many of the people whose names were on the list were found to be living in Kuwait.

"The Iraqis are willing to cooperate, but the Kuwaitis have to be realistic in their claims," Mr. Ortega said.

Iraq has received several lists forwarded by the Kuwaitis. Ironically at least two of the lists include Saddam Hussein Ali, who was installed as prime minister of Kuwait by the Iraqis immediately after the invasion, as well as seven others who served as ministers in his "cabinet."

Colonel Ala, a former officer in the Kuwait armed forces, is believed to be living in Iraq, having fled Kuwait towards the end of the Gulf war.

He released a statement to the Iraqi media earlier this year, paying tribute to the Iraqi regime on the eve of the 25th anniversary of the revolution.

Lawyer who said the Jordan Times Wednesday that he also appeared to include Kuwaiti nationals of Iraqi origin "who are living in Iraq on their free will."

"How can they be classified

as prisoners and, worse still, how can Kuwait demand that they be sent to Kuwait if they don't want to go?" asked the lawyer.

Furthermore, he said, "many are totally missing. For all we know some of them could be dead or back in Kuwait or anywhere else."

The lawyer and human rights activists were very reserved in their answers when asked how the Iraqi government was responding to the Kuwaiti proposal.

"Let us say that we have our ways to secure Iraqi approval once it is established that Kuwait will live up to its part of the bargain," said one of the activists.

"But it has to be understood that we can hope for the release of only those Kuwaiti nationals who are actually held in Iraqi jails serving terms," said the activist.

"In return, Kuwait has to unconditionally release all Jordanian, and Palestinians held on the so-called collaboration charges, including those convicted and those detained without charges or trial."

The lawyer and the activists also criticised the Jordanian government for its involvement in the contacts. "But the government will have to step in at a later stage when diplomacy and diplomatic channels come into play," said the lawyer.

Queen Elizabeth introduces incentive pay plan

LONDON (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II will pay her staff bonus in part on how well they do their jobs, Buckingham Palace said.

The palace will continue to pay a cost-of-living increase, but will away with the old system of pay increments based on length of service, a palace spokesman said. "Introduction of (performance-related pay) is in line with the best practice in the private and public sectors — and means that everyone should have an opportunity of some additional pay every year," said the spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"Under the incremental system, when you reach a certain level, you can have any more unless you are promoted."

Justice warns parents about computer porn

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Justice Department warned parents to ensure that their children are not being contacted by pedophiles via computer. The also warned against child pornography services operating via computer from Denmark. Federal cases have been made against people using the latest technology to gain access to suspected youngsters, but state cases have been brought officials said. Robert Flores, senior trial attorney with the department's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, said the department is not trying to scare the public, but they want parents to be careful about what their children are reading on computer bulletin boards. Parents of cyber-using young people should be "aware that there might be people out there looking to harm them," and should contact officials with evidence of those using the technology to contact children for illicit purposes, the officials said.

Doctors operate on unborn baby's heart

LONDON (R) — British cardiologists have disclosed they carried out the first successful heart operation on an unborn baby and that the child is now two years old and living a normal life. Guy's Hospital in London said Wednesday its surgeons had carried out the operation. Paediatric cardiologist Professor Michael Tynan reported the operation to colleagues at a conference in Nice. News of the operation has been withheld until now to avoid a wave of publicity until the survival of the child was assured.

"We feel this operation helped the baby, but we cannot say whether it is a breakthrough yet," Prof. Tynan was reported as saying. "We have a survivor which shows the procedure works, and both mother and baby are well." Gry's has operated on four foetuses in the past three years, but only one — a girl from northern Italy — survived. Al would have died immediately after her birth without surgery. Prof. Tynan said he was seeking permission from the parents of the child to publicise the case and identify her. Dr. Shakeel Qureshi, a member of the surgical team, said the heart defect — narrowing of the outlet valve from the heart to the aorta — was detected by specialists in Italy. The mother was flown to London and operated when she was 32 weeks pregnant.

Live to over 120 on North Korea's water of life

TOKYO (R) — Mineral water. But certainly, monster. Perrier? Vals? Perhaps Sindok...? According to the North Korean News Agency (KCNA), Sindok spring water — the "drink of longevity" — is a wowing export markets and already bears comparison with the big-name European brands. "An analysis disclosed that the water is better than the well-known Evian water of France," the agency says, without providing any objective backing for its claim. Sindok, which comes from a spring some 60 metres (200 feet) below the slopes of Mount Osook, in western North Korea, has some ancient healing properties, KCNA asserts. "The water is said to contain iron, copper, molybdenum, fluorine, calcium, sodium, zinc, manganese and other micro elements good for health and longevity." It is completely germ-free.

The North Korean agency says Sindok water "play important functions in preventing indigestion, disordered blood pressure, arteriosclerosis, diseases and ageing and keeping the vigour of youth."